

Gem & Jewellery News

The Millennium Trade Dinner

Gary Ralfe outlines De Beers' approach to key issues in the diamond market

To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Laboratory and to renew confidence and optimism in the jewellery trade at the start of the millennium, the GAGTL joined with the London Diamond Bourse and Club to hold a dinner at the Goldsmiths' Hall in the City of London on 5 June. Gary Ralfe, Managing Director globally of De Beers, was guest speaker.

The dinner, held in the magnificent Livery Hall, was preceded by a private viewing of the Goldsmiths' Company's millennium exhibition *The Treasures of the 20th Century* – a spectacular display of silver, jewellery and art medals.

Freddy Hager, President of the LDBC, welcomed those present to the event that he described as a celebration. 'We are celebrating', he said, 'that most prized and priceless accomplishment, co-operation and unity. Working together in concert with one's peers is always worthwhile and rewarding, and all the more so in challenging times such as these.'

He commented that the gigantic strides of technological progress in recent times continue to affect us all



Gary Ralfe, Managing Director of De Beers, speaking at the Dinner.

and impact most dramatically upon the way we conduct our business.

Freddy Hager considered it very fitting therefore that two organizations

– one a body created to establish and uphold the application of sound scientific and consistent principles within our industry, the other an association created to espouse and nurture correct, moral and ethical trading – should forge an ever deeper and closer alliance.

'The symbiotic relationship', declared Mr Hager, 'between the GAGTL and the LDBC is a most happy one; and I do feel very confident that our collaboration will grow and that we will see increasing benefits from this.'

He concluded by expressing thanks to the generous sponsors of the Dinner, Malca-Amit Ltd. 'Under the able stewardship of its London Director, Gideon Rachmann', continued Mr Hager, 'Malca-Amit is a company that handles the shipping and delivery of diamonds and other articles of high value with seamless efficiency and without fuss. Where some would point out problems, Malca-Amit provides solutions!'

Jeffrey Monnickendam, Chairman of the GAGTL's Trade Liaison Committee, introduced the speaker,

Continued on p. 36

Contents

Around the trade	35	Amber	43	Obituary	46
Recent events	38	Book Shelf	44	Seal engraving	47
Idar Oberstein	40	Museum and exhibition news	45	Competition	47
Scottish Branch Conference	42	Tucson 2000	45	Symposium on enamelling	47
Changing the colours of diamonds	43	British Orders of Chivalry	46	What's on?	48

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Editorial

Museums are going through a time of great change and instability, and are increasingly trying to be all things to all people. Because not everyone wants to visit museums, it is thought that museums must be doing something wrong, and we are exhorted to stop being dusty, musty and boring, a stereotype that was already out of date fifty years ago. Not everyone attends football matches or rock concerts either, but nobody seems to think it necessary to change them so as to make them more appealing to those who are as yet impervious to the charms of football and popular music.

There is now in the national museums an increasing insistence on simplifying displays and other information, on emphasizing form at the expense of content. The basic premise is reasonable enough; 'access' is the watchword, and we should try to encourage more people to come in and enjoy museums, we should avoid obscure jargon in our written communications, and we should make museums attractive and friendly places. Of course, curators have always tried to do these things. What we never thought of doing in the past, and do not wish to do now, is to treat museum visitors as if they are simple souls, possessing little or no general knowledge, incapable of understanding Big Words and stimulated not by facts and ideas but by bright colours, pretty shapes and loud noises.

How can one possibly achieve the purpose of a museum, which is to educate and inform as well as to entertain, through a determined programme of dumbing down? There are those who

would like us to write our display labels in language immediately comprehensible to the average seven-year-old. Naturally seven-year-olds visit museums, and we are delighted to see them there, but would hope that they normally have an accompanying adult to turn to for simpler explanation of the exhibition. If the curatorial interpretation of the displays is targeted solely at such young visitors, there can be little or no incentive for those children to return when they are fourteen, let alone when they are adult. They are left imagining that some highly specialized subject (the archaeology of Roman Britain for example, or volcanology) is so simple that a young child can grasp it, and there is no point in them coming back to learn more.

Readers of this publication are probably fairly typical visitors of national museums in that they are educated adults with their own highly specialised areas of expertise.

A museum visitor like this may not know much about the specific topic of a given exhibition, but he or she will know how to think and how to learn, and does not deserve to be patronised and fobbed off with bland, simplified generalizations. Traditional displays that convey factual information and theoretical ideas, that explain technical terminology in words of as many syllables as necessary, and that inspire the visitor to learn more, seem to me far more enjoyable than noisy video clips and clanking models.

Maybe curators like me are dinosaurs. But if we are, we insist on the genus and species names being included on our label ...

Catherine Johns

Members of the GAGTL wishing to raise issues concerning GAGTL activities are reminded that they may contact the Chairman of the Members' Council, Colin Winter, c/o the GAGTL, 27 Greville Street, London EC1N 8TN.

Boycott fear on 'conflict' diamonds – a challenge for the trade

At the time of writing there is a planned demonstration through Hatton Garden to highlight the problems of the civilian population of Sierra Leone who are suffering at the hands of the rebels in the present civil war there.

The demonstrations will be backed by Global Witness, who have been campaigning for some time now for a boycott of diamonds that come from areas in Africa where there is civil war, and rebel organizations use the funds from the illegal sale of diamonds to buy arms and fund their war (see March issue of *GJM*).

The world's attention was first drawn to this problem when Angolan rebels started selling diamonds and using the money to prolong their war. There are now United Nations resolutions to stop this illegal trade. The practice has now spread to Sierra Leone and other African countries, and as the rebels find it difficult to sell their diamonds outside their own countries they are being smuggled to nearby states, to be sold from there on to the world markets.

The campaign against such diamonds is gaining momentum with frequent articles in the world press and other media. The largest distributor of African rough diamonds, De Beers, has given categorical assurances that it does not buy any rough from these conflict areas, nor does it buy rough that it suspects may have come from these sources. The campaign is now being aimed at the public in asking them to demand to know where the diamonds they intend to buy come from and to refuse to buy these 'conflict' diamonds. Some politicians have taken up this call with demands that diamonds should now have origin reports.

Anyone involved in the gem trade knows that it is relatively simple to guess at (but not prove) the origin of coloured stones. This is done by the colour of the stones and their inclusions, although colour is the dominant factor. Experts tell us that this is not a

CIBJO Congress 2000

The annual CIBJO Congress, held this year in Kobe, Japan, has just concluded.

After the previous Congress in Berne in 1999 a Task Force was set up to try to assess the present CIBJO organization and recommend changes to make it more useful to the trade in the 21st century. There were long, intense discussions on the recommendations, but no major changes have yet been accepted. It is hoped that delegates will go back and talk about the Task Force report with their national associations and will all therefore be ready at the next congress to adopt new ideas.

The 2001 CIBJO Congress will be held in Paris, France, in the spring at about the time of the Basle Fair.

Change of Secretariat

One major change has been made. The Secretariat of CIBJO has for many years been held by the National Association of Goldsmiths (NAG) in London, with their chief executive, Dr Jack Ogden, being the Secretary General. This gave stability and continuity to the everyday affairs of CIBJO. Dr Ogden has now left the NAG (see 'Auf Wiedersehen' on p. 39) and this and other factors have forced the NAG to terminate this particular link with CIBJO. It was considered undesirable to go back to a roving Secretariat following the President of CIBJO, so this position has now been taken up by the Jewelers of America Inc. (JA) and their President, Matthew Runci, is

the new Secretary General.

Dr Gaetano Cavalieri of Italy was elected, unopposed, as the next President of CIBJO.

Another important change was made when Jean-Pierre Chalain of the SSEF laboratory of Switzerland was elected as president of the Laboratory Commission. This was a radical move for CIBJO as in the past all its main officers have been traders. It was felt that now the Laboratory Commission should be run by a laboratory person. Further, there are now regular meetings

between the trade and laboratories to promote some sort of accepted consistency in terminology on labora-

tory reports on gemstones, pearls and diamonds. It is hoped that CIBJO will now be more involved in these meetings and eventually be the host to this important project.

The Coloured Stone Commission remains very active and has now produced a care section which will be appended to the *Blue Book*. This is aimed to make disclosure of gemstone treatments simpler for the retailer.

Discussion throughout the four sectors of CIBJO addressed many problems facing the industry and it is to be hoped that the trade leaders will give the leadership what is now needed for the welfare of the whole jewellery trade.

Harry Levy

sure method, but nevertheless we all speak of, for example, Burma and Thai rubies, as well as Kashmir, Ceylon, Burma and Australian sapphires, and so on. In other words, the colour can

indicate a possible origin, but this cannot be done with polished diamonds that are colourless.

The fear and challenge for the diamond trade now is that the demand ►

◀ is coming for a boycott of these conflict diamonds with the implication that if you are not told the origin then assume it comes from these areas. We have seen the harm that pressure groups can cause for a trade such as the fur industry. There is a mass of information and, more importantly, mis-information about inflated numbers of conflict diamonds and how they get into the distribution chain. The main sellers of rough diamond have given assurances

that they will not handle such stones.

The main handlers of diamonds – bodies such as the World Federation of Diamond Bourses (WFDB) and the International Diamond Manufacturers' Association (IDMA) who between them have a membership encompassing almost all the cutters, De Beers' sight holders and main sellers of diamonds – have not merely paid lip service to these demands, but are genuinely horrified and disgusted by this

trade. They have passed resolutions condemning these practices and threatened all their members with penalties and expulsions should they be found to be knowingly handling conflict diamonds. CIBJO has taken a similar attitude by passing resolutions and circulating instructions to its members. Hopefully these attitudes will pass right along the distribution channels to the retailer.

Harry Levy

Gary Ralfe – key issues in the diamond market

Continued from p. 33

Gary Ralfe, who had joined De Beers 34 years ago and had been Managing Director of the company globally since 1997. Mr Monnickendam commented that De Beers is an extraordinary company in that it not only markets its products with great success, but also has to deal with complex geo-political conflicts in Africa. He also referred to De Beers' gem defence programmes. 'With that sort of backing', he said, 'Our customers can feel confident of the product that they buy.'

Gary Ralfe thanked the GAGTL and LDBC for the privilege and honour of addressing the London diamond industry: given the historical importance of London, which has been the world's most important distribution centre for rough diamonds for close to 400 years and that the first ever diamond marketing contract was between De Beers and the London Diamond Syndicate in 1890.

He commented that there had been so much in the media recently about diamonds that he was not short of topical issues to address. Conflict diamonds, the BBC Horizon programme 'The Diamond Makers' about synthetic diamonds, moissanite, Pegasus and the Guardian's headline the previous week 'De Beers to abandon cartel' as well as the weekend's articles in the Economist and the Financial Times.

On the subject of conflict dia-

monds, Mr Ralfe chronicled De Beers' involvement in working to resolve this issue with the UN, the FCO, the US State Department and the Southern African Governments as well as its own efforts. De Beers started to withdraw from its outside buying offices, in Angola, the Congo and Guinea in October 1999, having already withdrawn from Sierra Leone and Liberia fifteen years earlier. From the February 2000 Sight, De Beers' boxes of rough diamonds carry a warranty that they contain no conflict diamonds.

De Beers had now engaged positively with non-governmental organizations like Global Witness and put forward proposals on how to exclude conflict diamonds from the legitimate diamond trade. Mr Ralfe applauded the co-operation of the HRD of Belgium and commended the Israeli and Indian industries to co-operate as well.

At the request of the US State Department, De Beers had researched the quantity of conflict diamonds and estimated that they amount to less than four per cent of global production at rough value and – because of the quality of Angolan and Sierra Leone diamonds – much less again in carat terms and in value of polished and retail jewellery. It is now widely accepted, including by Global Witness, that it is not feasible to finger-print every diamond or to determine by any scientific means its origin once it is polished.

*Conflict diamonds . . .
less than 4% of global
production at rough value*

Mr Ralfe outlined the great challenge to all the industry to impress on the media and the global consumer that the vast majority of diamonds contribute significantly to the economic well-being in countries which otherwise would be impoverished, not just Botswana and Namibia but also India with its hundreds of thousands of polishers.

The issue is grave and the legitimate industry must do all it can to proscribe conflict diamonds and must demonstrate that it is doing so. To that end, Mr Ralfe stated that Nicky Oppenheimer and he would be writing to the Presidents of all the Diamond Bourses worldwide, setting out De Beers' great concern at this issue and calling on them to adopt a resolution at the World Congress in Antwerp in July to exclude membership from any person dealing in 'conflict diamonds'.

Mr Ralfe then turned to De Beers' Gem Defensive Programme, whose aim is to maintain consumer confidence in natural, untreated diamonds. Diamonds, as the ultimate gift of love, must stand for integrity and excellence. Therefore, any artificial alteration of a natural diamond must be accompanied by a declaration, particularly to the final consumer.

De Beers identified High Pressure, High Temperature (HPHT) synthetic diamond as a potential threat a long time ago. To counter this, De Beers developed the DiamondSure and DiamondView instruments. The origin of another idea, the inscribing of De Beers' logo on the tables of dia-

monds, in order to reassure the trade and the consumer, was developed as an identification method, not as a brand.

Because of De Beers' vast interest as producer of over 40 per cent of the world's diamond production by value, De Beers has been at the forefront both of diamond research and, latterly, of the Gem Defensive Programme. However, Mr Ralfe also saluted the guardians of standards in our industry like the Gemmological Association, the oldest such organization in the world, who are De Beers' natural partners in Gem Defensive work.

As new simu-
lants, better quality synthetics and more subtle enhancements appear, Mr Ralfe described how De Beers has been extending its research and defence work, citing the recent breakthrough on Type IIa diamonds, where De Beers scientists are now confident that they have refined a combination of discrimination techniques that identify the vast majority of treated Type IIa diamonds.

Mr Ralfe then addressed the transformation that De Beers and the diamond industry needed to move into the new millennium. He started by mentioning several of the well-regarded millennium advertising slogans, such as 'Show her that you will love her for the next thousand years' and 'Millennia may come and go but a diamond is forever' and went on to describe the period of introspection De Beers went through last year with its Strategic Review and how De Beers is now revitalized with enthusiasm and energy, commensurate with the new age, and, putting its Strategic Plan into action, it has woken up to the fact that it is now in a more competitive world with the share of newly mined world production of gems moving through the CSO falling to somewhere in the low 60's per cent. After careful analysis of the past decade, De Beers realized that it could not afford to continue to be the sole custodian of the diamond business and had to concentrate on increasing the shareholder value.

*industry transformation . . .
into the new Millennium.*

De Beers' first priority is incremental demand; to grow the industry to benefit everybody within it. De Beers' goal to be Preferred Supplier or Supplier of Choice to its clients rather than the buyer and seller of last resort, is the result of this, and Mr Ralfe outlined how De Beers and the industry could together achieve this, so that the resources devoted to the business, of manpower, intellectual property and money, should be working to move Diamond Trading Company (DTC) diamonds through the trade pipeline and out to the consumer. Mr Ralfe acknowledged that this was a complicated task but that it

did not mean that De Beers is dumping their stockpile on the market. More than anyone else De Beers has an interest in enhancing diamond prices and if 1998 were to happen all over again then De Beers would react to protect the interests of the diamond industry.

However, Mr Ralfe outlined the psychological sea-change that has already occurred at De Beers, after Bain & Company, De Beers' professional consultants, referred to the diamond business in the 1990's as an ex-growth industry. This fact was reinforced by the share market treating De Beers as a non-growth stock and by the global diamond jewellery consumption registering no growth for the 1990's in real terms, whilst luxury branded goods grew at a real annual rate of 6 per cent.

De Beers' research into the advertising to sales ratio in the diamond jewellery business is a mere 1 per cent, whilst 6 per cent seems to be the norm for branded watches like Rolex and for other branded luxury goods it is as high as 10 per cent. Mr Ralfe concluded that the message must be that the diamond business is deficient in promotion and advertising – in spite of the De Beers generic campaigns.

He believed that it also has to do with the relative lack of brands in

the diamond jewellery business. Studying other sectors, nothing seemed to contribute so much to the revitalization of a sector than the launching of competitive brands, citing the watch industry as a good example. Mr Ralfe applauded the launching of new brands in the diamond business and mentioned that De Beers was coming to the end of a business plan on the exploitation of its own brand name. He stressed, however, that De Beers' core business will remain the mining and marketing through its traditional channels of rough gem diamonds. Mr Ralfe explained that it is, therefore, through DTC Sightholders and in turn through their clients, that De Beers hopes to create distribution channels, encouraging the launching of brands, partnerships with the fashion industry and systematic business plans – indeed, anything that will take the diamond industry out of the old age and into the new age.

Mr Ralfe explained that the diamond industry needed to truly understand what it is selling to avoid the failures of other industries, citing the Hollywood movie moguls who never managed to dominate the TV business because they thought they were in movies, not in entertainment. He went on to say that the diamond industry is not in the business of selling stones but rather in the business of appealing to the tenderest and

most sensitive of human emotions, and of celebrating the most important milestones in the human life span:

diamonds are about love.

Like all businesses, the diamond business has to respond to the needs of its customers and, in the new Millennium, Mr Ralfe passionately believed that the diamond business could do better again in fulfilling the diamond dream.

Terry Davidson, immediate past Chairman of the GAGTL Trade Liaison Committee, gave the vote of thanks to Gary Ralfe. He also thanked the Goldsmiths' Company for kindly allowing the Dinner to be held in the magnificent Goldsmiths' Hall.

*. . . at the forefront of
diamond research and the
Gem Defensive Programme*

Great Temple of Les Beaux Arts

Eighteenth-century Birmingham and the Soho manufactory

A summary of the illustrated lecture given by Shena Mason at the SJH meeting on 10 April.

That great Temple of les Beaux Arts, ye Soho Manufactory' was how Elizabeth Montagu described Birmingham's showpiece manufactory in a gently chiding letter to Matthew Boulton on 12 December 1772. She had received part of an order (possibly of ormolu ware) but where was the rest of it? Far from keeping her 'easy and satisfied', the part-delivery had made her 'the more impatient to have the other things from the same incomparable hand'.

Mrs Montagu was typical of the sort of customer Boulton was wooing. The run-of-the-mill town centre family button and buckle business which he had inherited in 1759 had changed radically: from the splendid new factory on a green-field site, a shining stream of ormolu, Sheffield plate and sterling silver goods now emerged, targeted at the well-to-do market represented by the likes of Mrs Montagu and her circle. Indeed, Boulton was aiming high and had the royal family in his sights as customers, producing such items as ormolu clock cases and vases for royal chimneypieces.

Notwithstanding this, he had not lost touch with his roots, and jewellery, buttons and buckles in cut steel and other materials continued to form an important part of the manufactory's diverse range, in the production of which division of labour was an important element in Soho's competitiveness. He supplied earrings and steel beads to Joseph Banks for him to trade with such natives as he might encounter during his circumnavigation of the globe in 1772 as Captain Cook's botanist, and shoe buckles to the Prince of Wales. He explained his stock storage systems and rust or tarnish-preventing techniques to agents.

The Glanville Memorial Lecture, 2000

The Glanville Memorial Lecture is delivered annually at the University of Cambridge by a distinguished Egyptologist. This year, the title alone would have sufficed to tell us that Dr Jack Ogden was the speaker: *Behold a pale Horus: gold, silver and copper in ancient Egypt*. Jack took his audience through the details of composition and technology of these three vital metals, plus the others commonly alloyed with copper, described the way in which they were processed and used in antiquity, and stressed how the combination of art-historical,

archaeological and scientific study will always tell us more than any one of those approaches in isolation. Of particular importance was the information about the deliberate use of specific metal compositions for both practical and decorative purposes. Ancient Egyptian metalworkers achieved a wide range of colours by means of different alloys and the application of surface treatments, and excavators and conservators should be aware of this, lest subtle and damaged traces left after long burial are inadvertently destroyed.

Catherine Johns

He collected from them market information on what sold and what did not, and kept a close eye on the competition. He thought about what was a safe, but still attractive, period of credit to offer to customers at home, and those abroad, and how many people in the chain from manufactory to shop would expect to take a profit on each item as it passed through their hands. He was acutely PR-conscious. In short, he was in at the birth of big business as we know it today.

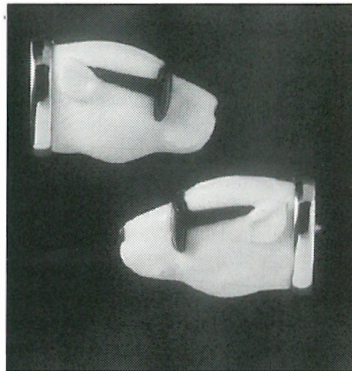
There were many manufacturers of ornamental metalwares in Birmingham in the eighteenth century, about whom we know relatively little. But Boulton was probably the most ambitious and, thanks to his (and his descendants') habit of hoarding even tiny scraps of paper bearing no more than a doodle or a jotted calculation, far more can be learned about him, and through him about business at this period, than about any of the others. This lecture drew especially on some of the references to jewellery and related goods to be found in the Boulton & Watt Papers and the Matthew Boulton Papers in Birmingham City Archives. Not only do these archives (especially the pattern books) give us a good idea of the products themselves, they also provide intriguing glimpses of business practice and social life at the time, and of how the two were often intermingled.

Design

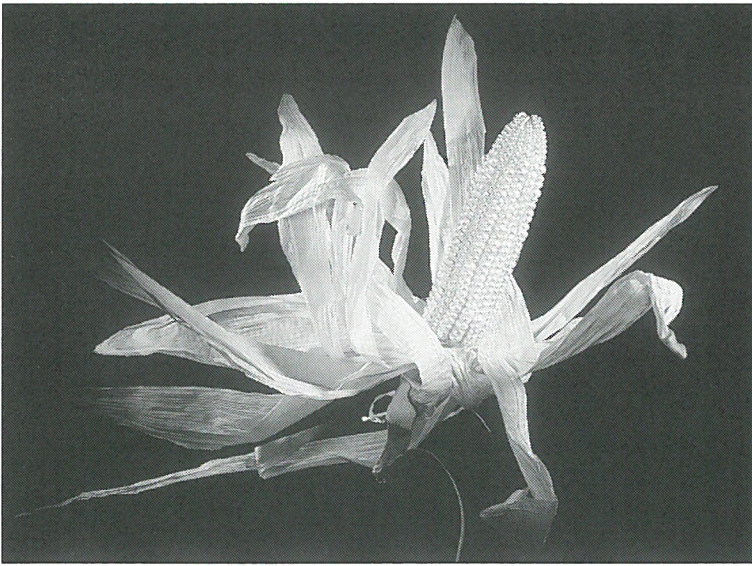
Design has been very much the theme of recent GAGTL meetings held in London.

In March Stephen Webster gave a talk with the intriguing title *Chalcedony – 21st century girl's best friend*. A British Jewellery Design winner, Stephen is particularly interested in using different varieties of quartz in his innovative and bold designs.

His talk was anecdotal as well as informative. Referring to his distinctive Crystal Haze collection in which he combines coloured stones with highly faceted clear quartz crystal, he described his time in a glue factory learning the best way to cement the two together!



Stephen Webster's polar bear cufflinks with carved white agate heads.



The pearl-set Corn Cobs designed by John Nels Hatleberg. Photo by Tony Pettinato.

In early May John Nels Hatleberg from New York kindly agreed to address our members, following an exhibition of his work in the Mineral Gallery at the Natural History Museum. Again the emphasis was on design, when he illustrated and described his collection of conceptual jewels. The diversity and impact of his work was apparent with designs ranging from body gems to his *Pearl Corn Cobs* which were a winning entry in the International Pearl Design competition. In addition John creates replicas

of famous diamonds, working with the actual gems.

Later in May, Corinna Pike gave a fascinating talk entitled *The Rose – nature's jewel as a decorative emblem*. Corinna traced the rose through history, and its influence on design. Illustrations included not only insignia and militaria with jewellery depicting roses, but also pictures of the flowers themselves, many of which were rare varieties. An earlier review of Corinna's research on the rose was published in the June 1997 issue of *Gem & Jewellery News*.

A group of members visited Goldsmiths' Hall in June to view the superb millennium exhibition entitled *Treasures of the 20th century*. Although the emphasis was on silver, the Goldsmiths Company's collection of jewellery dating from the early 1960's and featuring the work of many of the top designers of the period. One of the pieces specially commissioned for the exhibition, a black and white nephrite jade bracelet by Charlotte de Syllas, was featured on the front of the March issue of *GJN*.

A beautiful diamond-set rose brooch made by Garrard in 1992, to commemorate HRH The Princess Royal becoming Master of the Worshipful Company of Loriners, the makers of horses' harnesses.



Auf Wiedersehen!

Eleni Vassilika and Jack Ogden to move to Germany

Dr Eleni Vassilika, Keeper of Antiquities at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge for the last nine years, has been appointed Director of Museums in the town of Hildesheim, near Hanover. Eleni has achieved miracles in her time at the Fitzwilliam, creating superb new exhibition galleries, several publications, and even insisting (against some opposition) on a design for the Museum's public toilets that has subsequently won

them a place in the *Good Loo Guide!* At Hildesheim her responsibilities will include the Roemer-Pelizaeus Museum, with its outstanding Egyptological collections, and the task of setting up its first installations in a new building will provide ample scope for her scholarship and energy.

Eleni's husband, Dr Jack Ogden, is also leaving his current post at the National Association of Goldsmiths,

and will be teaching ancient technology at University level. His German students will be fortunate to learn from someone with such an encyclopaedic knowledge of his subject. Whether Jack's puns will work as well in German remains to be seen.

We wish them, and their young daughters Thea and Alexia, well in Germany, and hope still to see them regularly in the UK.

Idar-Oberstein: 'Suddenly it all made sense'

Mary Burland reports on the annual GAGTL visit to Europe's gem centre

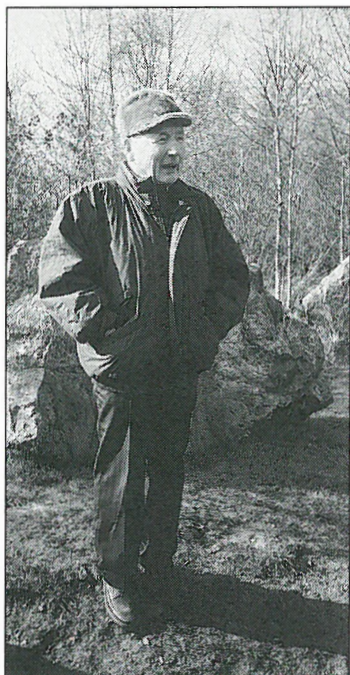
I was lucky enough to join the 6th GAGTL visit to Idar-Oberstein in early April and, although I had seen the photos and heard the stories from those who had attended in earlier years, I had not realized what a treat lay in store.

The pleasure for me started during the coach journey through France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany, when Susanna van Rose (one of our tour guides) explained the geology of the landscapes around us. This was followed by our arrival at Gethmann's Hotel set in the pine-clad hills surrounding Idar. The peace and tranquillity of the area would be hard to beat, and I plan to return to the hotel for a 'walking and relaxing' break sometime.

During the week we saw the complete gem and mineral story, from the rough to the finished product.



(From left) Victoria Harper, Laretta Saunders and Vera Buchanan examine stones set on dopsticks ready for faceting in Professor Bank's gem-cutting workshop.



Professor Bank explains the local geology before we enter the Steinkaulenberg mine. Behind him is a lava boulder typical of the area.

Logically, our first visit was to the Steinkaulenberg mine where the story begins. Professor Bank was our guide and explained, as we walked through the mines, how the quartz and chalcedony geodes had been formed in cavities within the lavas so many million years ago. With his instruction, we were able to follow the direction of the lava flows by the shape of the geodes surrounding us. Numerous geodes could be seen in situ, and I think one of the students in the group spoke for us all when we heard the comment, 'Suddenly it all makes sense'.

Our gem and mineral story continued with demonstrations of cutting and polishing, cameo cutting and gemstone carving. I was fascinated by the historical agate slicing and polishing workshop which was still driven by waterpower (it was even lit by the same Edison light bulbs which had reputedly been used since the turn of the 20th century!).

Erwin Pauly, who had recently been awarded the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany, wel-

comed us to his workshop where we could see his exquisite cameos being crafted.

Many of those we spoke to during these demonstrations were third and fourth generation craftsmen, with skills handed down from father to son. In contrast LaserPlus, a new addition to the tour's itinerary, demonstrated the latest technology used in laser-engraving.

State-of-the-art technology was also demonstrated at the Research Institute at Oberstein where synthetic crystals are grown for use as laser rods in various industries.

Once again, we were thoroughly spoilt by the hospitality of our friends in Idar. We spent a wonderful morning with Professor Bank examining his breathtaking gemstone collection, and once again he kindly ran a morning's workshop specially for the students in the group. We also had the opportunity to view the showroom of Gerhard Becker containing a sumptuous collection of mineral carvings.

Following a lunch kindly provided by the German Gemmological

Association, Claudio Milisenda conducted a tour of their collections, laboratories and teaching rooms.

New to the tour this year were visits to the showrooms of Emil Becker, a gemstone carver in the Fabergé style, and a bowl carver. Having seen a demonstration of bowl carving in the basement of his home, Helmut Wolf took us on a tour of his garden which contained the 'rough' from which the bowls were made – the enormous chunks including agates, rose quartz, and nephrite, had to be seen to be believed.

As in previous years visits were made to the gem and mineral museums in Idar and Oberstein, both of which contain outstanding, clearly lit and well labelled, collections. We



Elena Villa (right) and group member Heidi Bentley at the Trier studio. Heidi is modelling one of Elena's exquisite neck pieces. Photo by Victoria Harper.



At the Research Institute: Robert Brunt, Merle Thackrah and Christine Woodward examine slices of the synthetic boules under the polariscope.

were delighted with the special tourmaline exhibition currently being displayed in the Idar museum which contained, as well as magnificent carvings, specimens of colour-change and cat's-eye tourmaline, all supplied by local dealers.

The gem story was completed with a visit to jewellery designer Elena Villa

at her studio in Trier. Many of her designs, some inspired by sea-bed mythology, were set with rare and uniquely cut gems. We felt very privileged to have the opportunity to examine her original notebooks and sketches, a treat indeed for the designers in the group.

Amazingly with so much going on, we did find time to socialize! The group was a fascinating mix of people from the trade, students, hobbyists and those who had 'come along for the ride' with a partner but quickly fell under the spell of the gems. The group had plenty of opportunities to shop and were spoilt for choice with the number of gem and mineral dealers in the town. Time was spent each day when we returned to the hotel examining each other's purchases over a cup of tea and a gooey cake, trying not to make stones, loupes and pen torches too greasy!

And what a delight to enjoy the hospitality of Professor Bank and his wife who entertained the whole group to lunch in their own home. In 1999 the GAGTL had awarded Professor Bank an Honorary Life Membership in recognition of his services to gemmology, and following lunch he was presented with a framed certificate.

The 2001 visit is to be held from 22 to 28 April and many bookings have

already been received. So if you would like to indulge yourself in a week of sheer gemstone-gluttony please contact Sarah Mahoney at the GAGTL as soon as possible to reserve your place.



Helmut Wolf putting the finishing touches to a rose quartz bowl.

Scottish Branch Millennium Conference

Yet again, the Spring sun shone on Perth for the Scottish Branch's annual conference, reflecting the mood of those attending. The friendly and relaxing atmosphere created by this hard-working and enthusiastic branch affected speakers and delegates alike.

The conference started on Friday evening with a fascinating talk by Guy Clutterbuck on the emeralds of Pakistan and Afghanistan. As well as speaking about the deposits and mining procedures, Guy gave a historical overview and elaborated on the difficulties of mining in these areas, many of which are of extremely difficult access. His talk concluded with some valuable tips on current 'best buys' from the Far East.

Saturday morning opened with a presentation on the grading of coloured gemstones by Barbara Leal. (Unfortunately her husband, Peter Buckie, was unable to join her due to a nasty bout of flu). Delegates had the opportunity to test the grading systems for themselves, and although in the time allocated we may not have appreciated the finer nuances of the



Yellowish-green or greenish-yellow? (From left) Alistair Tait, David Shorter and Brian Jackson try to agree on the colour of a stone during Barbara Leal's colour-grading session.

schemes, all those present came away with a heightened perception of colour.

Ken Scarratt of the AGTA, New York, gave the keynote address on Saturday afternoon on the current treatments of rubies, emeralds and diamonds. Of particular interest was the latest information on the methods of detection of GE POL diamonds.

The AGM followed at which Brian Jackson, Catriona McInnes and Gillian O'Brien were re-elected Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

Kilts were the order of the day (or evening) for the Ceilidh dinner/dance. It was time to relax and enjoy, and we were treated to a delightful display by a Scottish country dancing team.

Sunday morning began with a second talk by Ken Scarratt entitled *The origin of the species*, which, as you probably guessed, had nothing to do with Darwin! After illustrating the diffi-

culties of forming an opinion on the original source of a gemstone, Ken



Searching for garnets on the beach at Elie.



Keynote speaker Ken Scarratt

went on to describe his current research into the subject, particularly that carried out using the laser Raman Microscope.

The final talk of the Conference was on a different note, when Chris Tabraham recounted the history of the Honours of Scotland. Chris told of escapades involving the jewels, many of which proved highly amusing.

Workshops and demonstrations were held in the afternoon including gemstone spectra by John Harris and Martin Donoghue, a display of refractometers from the oldest to the latest

by Alan Hodgkinson, computer microphotography by Brian Jackson, a fingerprinter by Dr Jamie Nelson and the Brewster Angle Meter by Dr Roger Harding.

A field trip was organized on the Monday to Elie where, again in beautiful sunshine, we scoured the beach for garnets.

Congratulations to the Branch for a splendid conference – without their enthusiasm and sheer hard work the event could not have been the outstanding success it proved to be.

Mary Burland

Sponsors

The Branch is most grateful to the following for their generous support of the Conference:

Major sponsors: Marcus McCallum, T.H. March & Co., Alistair Tait and Harry Henderson. Thanks also to: Backes and Strauss, Cairncross of Perth, Carrick Jewellery, Edinburgh Assay Office, Ola Gorie, Hamilton & Inches, Jamieson & Carry, M.J. Gems, Ian Mundie, Perthshire Jewellery Co., Ruppenthal, Shetland Jewellery, and E.A. Thomson Gems.

Changing the colours of diamonds

Scientists unlock secrets of the colour change process

In an article published in April in the international journal *Diamond and Related Materials, research workers from the United Kingdom and Japan describe a series of measurements they have carried out to understand the change in colour of natural diamonds, from a cheap and nasty brown to an exciting fancy yellow/green, produced by the NovaDiamond high-pressure, high-temperature (HPHT) process.**

Details of this work were revealed in a lecture 'The colour of diamond and how it can be changed' presented by Professor Alan Collins at a packed meeting of the GAGTL in London on 19 April. Collins also explained how suitably chosen colourless diamonds can be converted into attractive

'canary yellow' stones by the HPHT process.

The research involves optical absorption and luminescence spectroscopy, and the authors claim that the spectra of the diamonds are unlike those observed for natural diamonds. Consequently it should be straightforward to differentiate a natural yellow/green diamond, or a natural canary yellow diamond, from those produced by HPHT processing.

The authors argue that the brown colour of natural diamonds is associated with plastic deformation. The plastic deformation was probably produced when the diamonds were brought to the earth's surface by volcanic eruption, and results in a distortion of the regular

array of atoms that make up the crystal. The diamonds show clear evidence of internal strain, and exhibit 'colour graining' in regions where the planes of atoms have slipped past each other, producing dislocations.

When the diamonds are subjected to temperatures of approximately 2000 degrees Celsius (3600 degrees Fahrenheit), with a stabilising pressure of approximately 60000 atmospheres, some healing of the dislocations, and possible re-growth of diamond, occurs. This leads to a reduction in the brown colour.

If the diamonds have a very low concentration of impurities (like the Type IIa diamonds used by the General Electric/Lazare Kaplan consortium to produce GE-POL stones) the end result is simply an improvement in the colour grade of the diamond.

The specimens processed by NovaDiamond are mainly the Type Ia diamonds which contain typically a few hundred parts per million of nitrogen.

The authors have drawn on a huge range of previous research work on diamond, and this, together with their present measurements, has led to a consistent explanation for the colour change process currently being exploited by NovaDiamond and others.

Amber

During 2000, Helen Fraquet is re-writing her book *Amber* that was originally commissioned by Butterworths as part of their *Gem Series*.

She is conducting field trips to the majority of sources of amber in order to obtain original material and is meeting with mining concerns, manufacturers and retailers. She has already covered Russia and Poland, and is due in Romania during June.

As we are now in the age of proactive involvement, Helen has

offered to research any outstanding areas of gemmological interest that are still unaddressed in other available literature.

If you have any queries – such as the origin of the sudden influx of black amber and where it is being manufactured, or the current quantity of amber being mined in any one area – please write c/o the GAGTL and Helen will endeavour to include these outstanding areas in the new edition to make it tailor-made to its readership.

* Alan T Collins, Hisao Kanda and Hiroshi Kitawaki, 2000. Colour changes produced in natural brown diamonds by high-pressure, high-temperature treatment. *Diamond and Related Materials*, 9(2), 113-122.

The pearl and the dragon. A study of Vietnamese pearls and a history of the oriental pearl trade.

Derek Content (Ed.) with the cooperation of the GIA, and with contributions by Derek J. Content, Thomas Moses, Kenneth Scarratt, James Traub and Benjamin Zucker. Houlton, Maine, 1999. 108 pp, 15 figures mainly in colour. Hardbound with DW, ISBN 0 935681 07 8. £30 available from Derek J. Content Inc. or Nibris Books.

This book is about an extraordinary collection of 23 pearls. They vary in size from an ovoid sphere of 13.80–10.98 mm to an enormous slightly off-round sphere of 32.9–29.62 mm. Most have a well-defined flame-like structure and have a shiny porcellaneous surface of a superb orange to yellow colour. There are four chapters: 'The dragon and the pearl: perfection and power', Zucker; 'The mystery of origins', Traub; 'Reflections on the geography and history of the pearl trade in China, Vietnam, India and the Far East', Content. "Orange pearls" from the *Melo Velutes* (Marine Gastropods)', Scarratt. Although very detailed gemmological data is included, the book resembles a detective novel, the final conclusion of which is that the pearls are Vietnamese and were almost certainly once owned by the Emperor's family. *The Reflections* chapter is of particular long term value as it is meticulously researched and includes copious notes and references. One serious (at least to this reviewer) criticism is that the dust wrapper has on its front a magnificent actual-size picture of the collection laid out like a necklace. One would certainly have expected this to be reproduced as the frontispiece. Amazingly, this, the most important picture, does not appear at all inside the book, although the back wrapper picture of a *Melo* shell does. Lose or damage the wrapper and you lose the picture. This criticism aside, however, this is a most unusual and fascinating book that would be a very desirable addition to any gemmologist's and/or jewellery historian's collection.

Nigel Israel

Renaissance Jewellery in the Alsdorf Collection

The collection of Renaissance jewellery given to the Art Institute of Chicago by Marilyn Alsdorf is one of the most significant of its kind to enter an American museum. The Art Institute's journal, *Museum Studies* (Vol. 25, No. 2), offers specialists the most comprehensive study of the collection to date.

Edited by Ian Wardropper and Eloise W. Martin, Curator of European Decorative Arts and Sculpture, and Ancient Art, and written by a team of jewellery historians including Martha McCrory, Priscilla Muller and Charles Truman, the publication showcases a wealth of recent research. Two introductory essays explore the art of jewellery-making and the social and sacred significance of jewellery-wearing in

Renaissance culture. These are followed by short introductions and entries that cover the range of items in the collection, which includes a rich array of secular and religious jewellery from late-Medieval to nineteenth-century England, France, Germany, Italy and Spain. Beautifully illustrated with full-colour plates and complete with checklist and provenance information, this issue is sure to appeal to scholars as well as to a broad audience of individuals interested in jewellery and its many uses.

To order this issue, contact the Publications Department at Museum Studies, The Art Institute of Chicago, 111 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60603-6110, U.S.A. Tel. (312) 443 3825, Fax (312) 443-1334, e-mail pubsmus@artc.edu

**Special offer: \$12.70 plus postage (\$8.00 airmail, \$4.00 surface mail)
List price \$14.95.**

The Most Noble Order of the Garter 650 Years

Peter J. Begent and Hubert Chesshyre (Secretary of the Order and Clarenceux King of Arms) with a chapter on the Statutes of the Order by Lisa Jefferson, Spink London 1999, 469 pp, 140 illustrations mostly in colour and four colour plates. Hardback with DW, ISBN 1 902040 20 1, £75.

This book was published to commemorate the 650th anniversary of the first Garter Feast on St George's Day, 23 April, 1349. Although much scholarly material has been published during the last three centuries, this is the first comprehensive history of the Order since the magnificent (and monumental) volume by Elias Ashmole, Windsor Herald, first printed in 1672. The Garter is England's premier order of chivalry. It is limited to 25 Knights Companion and the Sovereign. In addition there may be Royal Knights both English and Foreign. Appointment is by the Sovereign, without ministerial advice,

and has always been used as a political and diplomatic tool. To quote from the Foreword to this book by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh KG: '... it gives glimpses into the worlds in which these soldiers, magnates, statesmen, favourites and a few traitors moved. Each one of them played a part, often a major part, in creating the destiny of this nation.'

By now some readers must be wondering if it is really *GJN* that they are reading. The history of jewellery, however, is also the history of display and status. What better vehicle for jewelled display could there be than the Garter Regalia. The Collar with its pendant badge (Great George), the Sash badge (Lesser George), the Star and, of course, the Garter itself are all dealt with in the chapter on Robes and Regalia. Garter rings are also mentioned, although there is no evidence that they ever formed part of the actual

Garter Regalia. The book also breaks new ground in examining the personalities and the skills of the individual artist and craftsmen who have been responsible for the production of the banners, crests and stall plates for St George's Chapel from the late Victorian era to the present day. This is a major work of scholarship with numerous appendices including Officers, Rituals, References, etc.

It is, nevertheless, very approachable for such a detailed text, and to read it is to immerse oneself in the history of England. There is, incidentally, a Special Limited De Luxe edition available for a mere £950.

Nigel Israel

Museum and Exhibition News

Romantic Jewellery 1820-1850

An important exhibition devoted to 'Romantic Jewellery 1820-1850 – Finery at the time of George Sand', is currently taking place in Paris until 1 October 2000.

Some 200 works by Mellerio dits Meller, Chaumet, Charles Wagner, François Désiré Froment-Meurice, Jules Frédéric Rudolphi, Morel & Cie, Jean-Paul Robin, Jules Wièse and Fossin et Fils are included in the show, with loans largely drawn from the Musée des Arts Décoratifs as well as a number of other public and private collections.

The selection of pieces reflects the different romantic movements, particularly the taste for the Middle Ages and the discovery of the Orient.

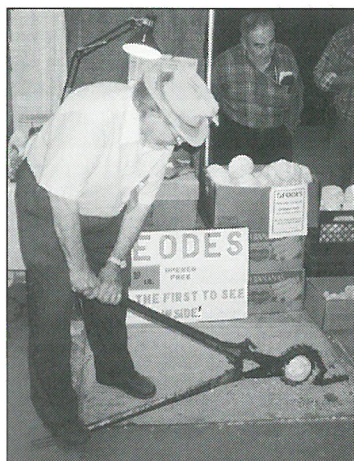
Thirty portraits depicting members of the Royal family, the aristocracy and the new bourgeoisie are also featured in the show.

The exhibition is held at the Musée de la Vie Romantique, 16 Rue Chaptal, 75009 Paris (Tel. 00 331 48749538) Tuesday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5.40 p.m. Admission 30 fr. A lavishly illustrated catalogue priced at 195 fr accompanies the show.

Tucson 2000

The first GAGTL organised trip to Tucson, Arizona, took place in February this year when a group of ten people joined Ian Mercer and Lorne Stather of the GA to experience for themselves the world's biggest display of gem materials.

Tucson itself is a surprise to anyone who had not visited before. There are few high-rise buildings and the city sprawls over a vast area, covering most of an arid plain with little vegetation and surrounded by cactus-covered hills. There is no feeling of



Buy a geode for \$10 and have it opened while you wait.



Part of the group at the Desert Museum.

urgency about the place, but rather, a pervading relaxed atmosphere.

The various fairs are held in the modern convention centre, in hotels and motels, in marquees and tents, from one end of the city to the other, and are reached by a system of shuttle buses laid on for the event.

The gem fairs themselves vary in quality from the top-of-range AGTA and GJX fairs, through the individual stalls set up in hotel bedrooms, to a display of half-a-dozen gem speci-

mens on a tray outside a barber's shop in a back street. There are coloured stones of every hue: large, clear crystals of rhodochrosite, trapiche emerald cabochons, intricate carvings in blue chalcedony and every cut stone imaginable. There are also pearls of every hue from glorious South Seas with a rich lustre to Chinese freshwater dyed bright blue. As the assistant said, 'Now you can have pearls dyed to match your shoes.'



Stalls outside the bedrooms of one of the hotels.

There is something for everyone with an interest in gem materials and minerals. As my area is organics I returned home with examples of corals, pearls, shells, ambers, so-called jet from New Mexico, ammolite and mammoth ivory. The star of the collection was a carving of five frogs in amber from Chiapas, Mexico, which fluoresces to make the frogs appear green.

Tucson is not only gems, though, and various members of the group took a

day or two off from the mind-blowing shows to experience other things such as Las Vegas and the Grand Canyon, Tombstone, western-style horseback riding in the nearby hills, or just shopping in a typical American mall. The whole group went on an excursion to the Desert Museum which is a kind of zoo in the wild. Especially fascinating were the prairie dogs.

All gemmed-out we left Tucson as the fairs were closing. None of us had managed to see every fair, but we all

felt that we had seen as much as we could take in. Tucson, meanwhile, was getting ready for the rodeo, due in town a few days later.

Maggie Campbell Pedersen

British Orders of Chivalry

The Society of Court Studies is holding, on Thursday 21 and Friday 22 September, a conference entitled *British Orders of Chivalry: principally the Garter and the Bath*.

On Thursday the meeting will be in London and concentrate on the Bath, including a visit to the stalls in Westminster Abbey.

Friday's meeting will be at Windsor Castle and concentrate on the Garter, including visits to relevant parts of the castle.

For further details, including Membership and Seminars, please write to: The Society of Court Studies, PO Box 14057, London N5 1WF.

Obituary

Jacob Issacharoff

Born Jerusalem 10 January 1907
Died London 17 March 2000

Jacob Issacharoff was one of the 'old school' of gem dealers. He learnt his trade in the cut and thrust of Hatton Garden during the 1940s when merchants would meet at the old Express Dairy tea rooms or gather in the doorways of buildings to buy and sell. Parcels of stones would change hands without a signature or a piece of paper. The maxim then was 'My word is my bond'.

Jacob Issacharoff was one of the many refugees who arrived in the UK from Europe in 1938. He had to leave behind a flourishing greengrocer's business he had built up in the rue Cadet in Paris during the 1930s after arriving in the capital with his young bride Penina, from Jerusalem in 1929.



Jacob Issacharoff

He first found work in London as a waiter in the Savoy Hotel and if it was not for a chance meeting with a Hatton

Garden jeweller called Albert Freeman he probably would have devoted his energies to the hotel business. He started work as a broker in 1941, quickly applied his entrepreneurial skills to the trade and was soon in a position to purchase a controlling interest in Albert's firm, changing the name to A. Freeman (Precious Stones) Ltd. in 1944.

Jacob became an expert in diamonds and estate jewellery, but his main love was coloured stones. When the jewellery manufacturing trade started to recover after the war Jacob found that there was a flourishing market in the UK and Europe for sapphires, rubies and emeralds. Driven by ambition and having an adventurous spirit he beat a path to the gem producing sources in Asia and Africa, long before the convenience of jet travel, purchasing stones direct from the dealers at the mine.

In 1957 he was joined in the firm by his daughter Maroussa and three years later by his son Martin who now runs his own business. His son-in-law Adrian Klein joined the company in 1969. His granddaughter Giselle took up the tongs and loupe in 1980. Jacob was proud that the business he started from humble beginnings grew through three generations to become one of the leading international gem dealing companies.

In 1994 after his wife Penina died he concentrated more of his efforts to raising funds for Or Hachayim, a charitable institution responsible for the education of underprivileged children.

He was always regarded as a most honourable businessman, a great teacher and benevolent father. His unparalleled knowledge, experience and interesting life story made him a prominent leader in his field. Yet at the same time he was gentle, loving, good humoured and ever ready to offer his unflinching advice. Right up until the last few weeks before his death he took a

keen interest in the activities of the business and attended the office daily.

He is survived by his daughter Maroussa, son Martin, five grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Adrian Klein

Samuel Beizer

The SJH regrets to announce the death on Friday 21 April of Professor Samuel Beizer of New York. Professor Beizer was a leading figure in the jewellery world, both in America and internationally. He ran the jewellery department at New York's Fashion Institute of Technology for many years, and provided the technical genius that enabled the manufacture of Elsa Perretti's mesh jewellery for Tiffany. His energy and expertise will be much missed. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Laurel.

News of his death reached us just as this issue was going to press. A fuller obituary will follow in due course.

Seal engraving

Following an award in the 1999 Lion of Scotland competition, the work of seal engraver Ian Hammond was exhibited at Art:t:m in Inverness from 13 May to 10 June.

This small exhibition of craftsmanship included a range considerably extended from that normally encountered with the engraving of gold signet rings and those that are stone set. Skill and versatility were evident in the items displayed which included rock crystal superbly engraved, a set of die-pressed buttons on a waistcoat, and interesting applications that had been made with a sizeable desk seal.



Illustrated is a rock crystal cabochon, wheel engraved into the back with the design of a Knight designed to produce a magnified image when viewed through the stone.

Competition

The answer to the last competition is that the price of the stones was based on the number of letters in the name of the stone. For example, the ruby and the topaz have nine letters together and they are worth £18. Therefore each stone is worth twice the number of letters in its name. Thus emerald, which has seven letters, is worth £14.

The current competition is a real conundrum I was confronted with recently. I took a 1 ct diamond on approbation at a price of \$2000. I was unable to sell it and returned the stone to the owner. Sometime later I had another demand for such a stone and on approaching the owner was told that the stone was still unsold, but that he had now paired it up and as a pair they were worth more and the price was now \$2200 per carat. This seemed fair enough to me.

I was unable to sell the pair but had a firm offer on the original \$2000 stone. The owner informed me that he would lose money if he split the

pair but would be willing to do so if he was compensated and the original stone would now cost \$2400.

Is he right or justified in his claim, or has he merely talked up the value of his stock? I am convinced the second stone to make the pair cost him a similar amount to the first stone.

Can anyone give me a simple argument to confront this supplier?

Harry Levy

SJH Symposium on Enamelling

To be held on 14 and 15 October at the Scientific Society's Lecture Theatre, London

The papers for the Symposium will range in period from Ancient Egyptian to the Present Day, deal with the different types of enamelling, and will be presented by leading authorities in their fields.

The Society would welcome requests for application forms from non-members, who should write to the Chairman, marking their envelopes 'ES'.

Gemmological Association and Gem Testing Laboratory of Great Britain

London Branch

Meetings will be held at the GAGTL Gem Tutorial Centre, 27 Greville Street (Saffron Hill entrance), London EC1N 8TN at 6.00 for 6.30 p.m. Entry will be by ticket only at £4.00 for a member (£6.00 for a non-member) unless otherwise stated.

26 June. AGM, Reunion of Members and Bring and Buy Sale. *The winners of the 2000 Photo Competition will be announced and entries displayed.*

GAGTL members only – free of charge.

NB: The AGM will commence at 5.30 p.m.

12 July. Faceting revolution

ROGER YOUNG

North West Branch

Meetings will be held at the Church House, Hanover Street, Liverpool 1. For further details contact Deanna Brady on 0151 648 4266.

21 June. *Pocket sculptures – gemstone carving?*

MEMORY STATHER

20 September. *History of English watches from verge to lever*

PETER McIVOR

18 October. *Minerals and gems at the Great Exhibition of 1851.*

DAVID LANCASTER

15 November. AGM followed by Gem collection and anecdotes

JOHN PYKE SNR

Scottish Branch

For further details of Scottish Branch meetings contact Catriona McInnes on 0131 667 2199.

Early September. *The history of diamond grading.*

ROY HUDDLESTONE

Early October. *Crystal growing and synthetic gem materials.*

DR PETER DRYBURGH

GAGTL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*To be held on Sunday 29 October
at the Barbican Centre, London*

Keynote Speaker: PROFESSOR AL LEVINSON

Diamonds in Canada – Geology to Gemmology

PAUL SPEAR: *Synthetic and treated diamonds*

DR JUDITH KINNAIRD: *The sparkle in Somaliland*

ROBERT FAWCETT: *The cultured pearl trade today*

HARRY LEVY: *What's in a name?*

Midlands Branch

Friday meetings will be held at The Earth Sciences Building, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, at 6.30 for 7.00 p.m. Admission £2 for a member. For further information call 0121 445 5359.

24 June. Summer Supper

29 September. Gemmology and Gem Testing Quiz

27 October. The works of Peter Carl Fabergé

STEPHEN DALE

24 November. The minerals of Pakistan.

MICHAEL O'DONOGHUE

2 December. 48th Annual Branch Dinner.

Society of Jewellery Historians

Unless otherwise stated, all Society of Jewellery Historians' lectures are held at the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, London W1 and start at 6.00 p.m. sharp. Lectures are followed by an informal reception with wine. Meetings are open only to SJH members and their guests. A nominal charge is made for wine to comply with our charity status.

19 June. HENRIETTA LIDCHI. Curator of North American Collection, British Museum.

Surviving desire: native jewellery of the American Southwest.

2 October. MALCOLM APPLEBY. Scottish artist-jeweller and engraver.

A lecture on his own work.

14/15 October. *A weekend symposium on enamelling. For further details see p.47.*

6 November. PROFESSOR HENRY FERNANDEZ. Rhode Island School of Design.

Papal tiaras in early 16th century Rome.

4 December. HUGH TAIT. Past President of the Society.

The jeweller's art of émail en résille sur verre: from antiquity to the 19th century.