

Gem & Jewellery News

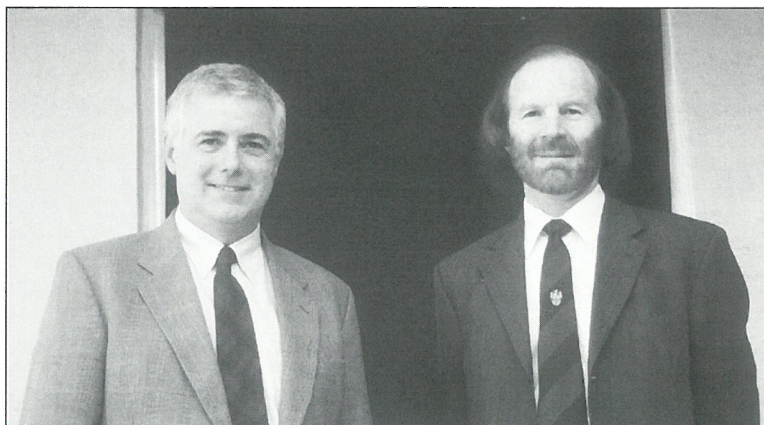
New Chief Executive for GAGTL

The way forward

At a recent meeting the Council of Management unanimously decided to create a new post of Chief Executive Officer and to appoint Jean-Paul van Doren to fill the position.

Mr van Doren is an experienced gemmology marketing expert who started as a diamond polisher in Antwerp. After working on the bench in Rome and managing jewellery houses in Bond Street, he set up businesses in Hatton Garden for gemmological instruments and security transport companies.

He has excellent knowledge of rough gemstones and has all-round insight into all aspects of the gem and jewellery trades which, through his multilingualism, stretches across Europe. As Chief Executive he intends to market vigorously all the various departments of the Gemmological Association. He intends to deepen the knowledge and expertise of the Association, as well as bringing the Association closer to the trade and the public. The rise of new technology applied to gems and communication will continue to figure strongly. He is confident that with the GAGTL's excel-



Jean-Paul van Doren (left), the newly-appointed CEO of the GAGTL, with Roger Harding.

lent and professional team working with him at the Head Office, the oldest gemmological association in the world will be able to start the millennium with renewed vigour. Adding his professional experiences will enable the GAGTL to widen its scope without losing its worldwide recognized quality.

Jean-Paul van Doren will take up the post on 1 January 2001. Roger

Harding will continue in his position as Director of Gemmology, concentrating on editorial activities (*The Journal of Gemmology*, *Gem & Jewellery News* and other publications), dealing with academic matters as they affect the educational programmes and pursuing lines of gemmological enquiry. He will remain on the Council of Management.

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Where are they now? Who were they then?

It isn't difficult to find fine gemstones – all you need is money and opportunity (this applies to other areas in life, too, though an Englishman needs time as well). The difficult-to-find specimens do exist outside the textbooks even though nobody makes them. You won't find a garnet-topped-doublet manufacturer in the *Yellow Pages* because they are usually made outside the United Kingdom and the makers, who make a living by selling some much more obvious and desirable glass products, don't trouble to advertise the doublets.

But for students the odd efforts of unknown makers are a lot of fun: recently the Wednesday group at the GAGTL found a fine light greyish-blue Sri Lanka star sapphire – only it wasn't! The stone was a composite made from a pale piece of star rose quartz backed by a glass bead dyed deep blue on the inside. I have rarely seen a soudé emerald (colour from a gelatine layer) in which pronounced yellowing has taken place from deterioration of the gelatine. I have never met a colourless garnet-topped-doublet nor an 'opal' made from a rock crystal or glass cabochon with a mother-of-pearl base.

While things like these do get an occasional mention in journals, they can never have been a really serious problem affecting large sections of the trade. They cannot have raised much profit for their makers: apart from their interest to gemmologists they could not have competed with mass-produced cheap synthetics which look good too. So where are they all now? Not the stones but the makers.

Who knows someone who makes things like doublets just for fun? Was there a generation of garden-shed inventors who turned their skills, perhaps unrecognized in daily work, to cunning deception? How did their products get on to the markets and into the textbooks? Did they send specimens direct to the laboratories – if so, their identity could even now be traced! Who made up the trade names for them? Who made up the huge lists of names which load (?overload) the larger textbooks. Were many of the names ever used? You only have to quote a likely-sounding name in a paper or book for someone later on to incorporate it into a serious compendium of mineral names – this is no help to science.

If anyone has information on this rather interesting area, let me know!

Michael O'Donoghue

Contacting SJH – letters only please

SJH is extremely privileged to have the British Museum as its official postal address. The Society is not run by the British Museum, and therefore BM staff cannot help with queries. *All* enquiries should be made by *post*. Correspondence addressed to the Society at the BM is collected and regularly distributed to the appropriate person but as the Society is run on a voluntary basis a reply may not be immediate and we would ask you to be patient.

Please do not telephone or call in person at the BM.

Nigel Israel

Diamonds . . . a token of love and affection, not of hate and affliction

By the time most of you read this article we will be at the end of the Millennium year, although there are those who maintain that 2001 is the real millennium year.

Those who produced jewellery to celebrate the Year, with special designs and special hallmarks, have had a mixed reaction. Some sold all they made, others still have items sitting on their shelves and in their vaults. One gratifying result for many was that the dreaded Millennium Bug failed to materialize (although it may have been eliminated before it could do any damage!).

It would be useful to give a survey of the past year, to highlight and try to explain some of the problems and see what is in store for us in 2001.

Cruel wars

By far the greatest issue facing the jewellery trade is that of the so-called conflict diamonds. Briefly these are diamonds which have been sold by rebels in a few diamond-producing countries who use the money obtained to prolong their wars. These have been cruel wars, and we have all seen reports in the media of the victims of the conflict, in many cases innocent civilian bystanders, women and children, who are subjected to torture, amputation and often death.

Traditionally diamonds have been a token of love and affection, not of hate and affliction. Almost all those involved in the diamond trade, from the miners through to the retailers, are horrified at the evil and pain caused in these wars, and the subsequent degradation of diamonds themselves. It is like the case of one bad apple rotting the whole crate. But unlike the fur trade, which has been used misleadingly as an analogy, not every diamond is 'bad' whereas every pelt used in clothing has been obtained by the death of an animal.

Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), such as Global Witness and Amnesty International, have focused on this problem, alerted the world media and influenced governmental ministers and officers, and delegates at the United Nations. No one doubts their

sincerity and anyone with any feelings and emotions cannot but support them. But to overstate the case and threaten to ruin the whole industry, most of which is legitimate and brings a livelihood to many nations and workers, is itself an unjust course of action.

Self regulation

To their credit, the NGOs understand this and state that their aim is to eliminate the conflict diamonds only. They agree that this will be best achieved through self regulation of the diamond trade, rather than through governmental restrictions. This message has got through to our trade and responsible leadership is now attempting to address this problem. The first concentrated international effort was started at the Diamond Congress held in Antwerp last July. This is a combined congress of the World Federation of Diamond Bourses (WFDB) and International Diamond Manufacturers Association (IDMA). They invited Ministers from countries who were trying to redress the conflict diamond problem, representatives from the

United Nations, and the leadership of the NGOs. Resolutions, condemnations, discussions, speeches and assurances were all given at the Congress, but all realized that actions rather than words were needed. To this end the World Diamond Council (WDC) was founded at the Congress, solely for the purpose of rapidly developing and implementing a comprehensive plan to curtail trade in conflict diamonds while minimizing adverse impact on the legitimate diamond industry.

WDC aims

The WDC has established committees involving the trade itself, peripheral bodies such as banking, governments, technical aspects and forums for discussion and action. They met in September in Tel Aviv, Israel; and in October in London at an intergovernmental meeting representing 36 countries involved in all aspects of the diamond trade (see report below).

The aim is to prevent conflict diamonds, or to use the more emotive term 'blood diamonds', from getting into the legitimate distribution ►

Inter-governmental meeting on conflict diamonds

A World Diamond Council delegation headed by Chairman Eli Izhakoff participated in an inter-governmental meeting on conflict diamonds convened in London on 25 and 26 October. The delegation comprised representatives of the High Diamond Council, the GIA, and Jewelers of America, as well as members of a government delegation from Israel. A representative of De Beers was present on the second day as an observer.

The official communiqué, issued at the conclusion of the two-day meeting, fully acknowledged the hard work of the diamond industry to date, and emphasized the importance of the continuing involvement of industry and civil society in working

together with governments to devise effective and pragmatic solutions to the problem of conflict diamonds without impeding the legitimate diamond industry or imposing undue burden on governments or industry.

In his opening remarks on behalf of the WDC, Chairman Izhakoff reported to the assembled delegates representing 36 countries and the European Union, on the results of the industry's work to date. Other members addressed the meeting on the recent implementation of a rough diamond certification program between Antwerp and Sierra Leone, proposals for international rough diamond controls, and the current status of various legislative proposals before the US Congress.

◀ chain. An original proposal was to certify every conflict-free diamond. Since it is usually impossible to determine the origin of a polished diamond, if this line had been pursued the argument would have been reversed to say that if one cannot determine the origin of a stone then you have to assume it is a conflict stone; this would have decimated the diamond trade.

Changing times

Irradiated blue topaz

An issue in the trade that is moving in a satisfactory direction is that of irradiated stones. A draft directive from the EU came into effect in May 2000 banning the trade in toys, foodstuffs and ornamental articles which contain irradiated material. Although not directed at gems, blue topaz may appear to come into this category, although in truth the irradiation methods used are a process and do not add irradiated material to the stones. Much blue topaz has been irradiated in respectable institutions which only release material when levels of radiation have dropped to an acceptable level. Our own Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has monitored the gemstone trade in the UK and has accepted that, with self regulation, no stones with a dangerous level of radiation will come onto the market.

HPHT diamonds

As I have said on many occasions, we live in changing times, and many new methods are being developed to improve the appearance of gemstones. Often such treatments are not advertised, but a recent exception has been the high pressure high temperature (HPHT) method of changing the colour of diamonds carried out by Lazare Kaplan and NovaDiamond. Those involved in the buying and selling of such stones, or articles containing them, must keep up with the trade to be aware of such changes.

Harry Levy

The thrust is now to prevent rough diamonds from the conflict areas ever entering the diamond trade. This has now started with documentation and monitoring of the movement of rough diamonds from the mines to the world cutting centres. This is a complex international operation and the necessity for the WDC and its programme becomes more understandable.

Point of sale

Unfortunately until now all this publicity has not helped the retail jeweller, who is asked at the point of sale "Is the diamond I am buying a conflict-free stone?" The Jewelers of America association, based in New York, have tackled this aspect and produced material and staff training manuals to address the problem. Hopefully the British Jewellers' Association and the National Association of Goldsmiths and other UK trade organizations will produce similar guidance and advice for their members. Meanwhile let me attempt to summarize some answers that can be used if one is asked questions on this topic by members of the public or indeed in the trade. Obviously in a retail situation one should not discuss the topic if the customer has not raised it. Only a minute fraction of polished stones, less than 2 per cent, come from the conflict areas and even this small proportion is destined to decrease.

Guaranteed conflict-free

De Beers, or as they now prefer to be called, the Diamond Trading Company (DTC), guarantee that they no longer buy stones from the conflict areas on the open market, and thus all their stones are conflict-free. They further stipulate now that all their sight holders must undertake not to buy conflict stones. Most of the diamonds sold in the UK originate from cutters who are DTC sight holders who would not jeopardize their standing to cut a few conflict diamonds. Many of the small commercial stones used in the UK originate from India and are in sizes which are unlikely to have passed through rebel hands.

The conflict areas are Angola, Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The rebels, finding difficulty in selling their stones,

Marketplace

Gem dealers report on 'best buys' and items to beware of.

Marcus McCallum reports that there are some 'super-duper' alexandrites, with good colour-change and in sizes up to 3 to 4 ct, currently available via Sri Lanka. There is also some very nice chryso-prase from Tanzania on the market.

Marcus warned that he had seen in the Far East increasing numbers of freshwater pearls with a suspicious coating – these are mainly baroque and it would appear that they have been coated to hide imperfections.

smuggle them into adjoining countries such as Liberia, Togo, Zimbabwe, Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso. So these countries are being drawn into the conflict diamond area. The legitimate governments of all these countries are tackling this problem themselves and the WDC and governments are trying to set up controls to enable legally mined stones to be exported.

Although no jeweller or retailer can give a categorical guarantee that every stone he sells is conflict-free, there is a high probability that this is so, and no retailer can claim an advantage over any other honest seller on this point. With the measures now being developed, in the future the small percentage of conflict diamonds on the market will drop even further.

Diamonds should be obtained from dealers who will not knowingly sell conflict stones. In many cases they are in a better position to know the provenance of their stones than a jeweller or a retailer.

Finally, it is wrong to attribute the problems of these African states solely to the diamond trade. Other industries such as arms and oil, are used by the rebels, and when the income from the sale of diamonds is curtailed it does not follow that the wars will be over immediately. Eventually the solutions will have to be political in the individual countries themselves.

Harry Levy

Medieval ring brooches in Ireland

A study of jewellery, dress and society

Summary of lecture given by Mary B. Deevy to the SJH on 22 May.

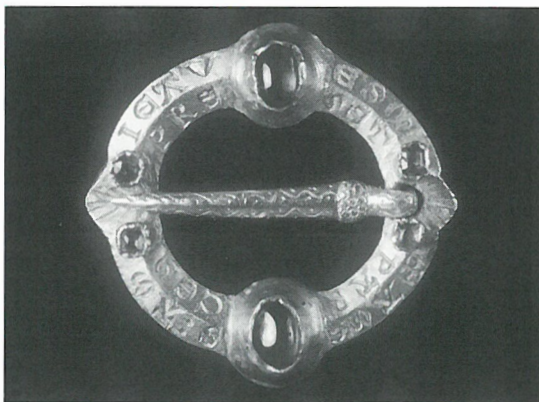
Ring brooches were dress accessories, in the form of simple and adaptable clothes fasteners worn by both men and women across Europe. The majority of ring brooches date to the 13th century, however they were worn throughout the Middle Ages. In some parts of Europe, especially Norway and Scotland, they were worn into the 18th century. Medieval art depicts them being worn in a variety of ways including to fasten the slit at the neck of the dress, to fasten the edges of a mantle or even attaching purses, paternosters and aprons to the dress.

A ring brooch consists of a metal frame and pin, with the pin fixed in one position on the frame so that it swivels. Ring brooches were made of both gold and silver, and of copper alloys and lead alloys. They can be quite plain or simply decorated with engraved motifs, or highly decorated with gemstones set in collets. The distribution of ring brooches in Ireland shows a striking concentration in the areas controlled by the Anglo-Normans from the late 12th to the 14th centuries. However, a few ring brooch finds, especially those from lake-dwellings in Ireland (crannogs), may indicate that the Gaelic Irish had also adopted this form of jewellery.

It is more than likely that some ring brooches found in Ireland may have been manufactured in Britain, France or another part of Europe, and imported into Ireland in the Middle Ages. Historical records attest to the quantity of luxury goods including jewellery being imported and exported around Europe. For example an entry in the *Calendar of Justiciary Rolls of Ireland* in 1306 refers to 'a ship called the Nicholas of Doun in Ulster, laden with wine and other merchandise' including coffers with jewels, furs, clothes, etc., which 'was by severe

tempest of the sea wrecked in the parts of Portmarnok near Molaghyde [Dublin Bay].' Metalworkers in Ireland would have been heavily influenced by the work of their European contemporaries, especially those in England and France. Therefore it is not surprising that the decoration of rings and brooches from Ireland, England and France can often be compared very closely.

In the Middle Ages collections of gold and silver coins, plate and jewellery represented bullion, and were assets easily realized in times of financial difficulty. Medieval Irish references attest to the accumulation of large quantities of valuables including



Gold ring brooch found in Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford, inscribed in French 'By this gift you have the friend you love'. (By kind permission of the British Museum.)

jewellery and of the need to safeguard them. For example at a judiciary hearing in 1295, Silvester le Ercedekne accused Hugh Purcel, Sheriff of Tipperary, of breaking into his castle and stealing from chests and coffers a large quantity of valuables. The valuables listed included money, clothes, armour, plate, precious stones, brooches, rings, girdles and other jewels.

Jewellery was also pledged as security to obtain money advances. For example in Dublin in 1299 a woman called Sibilla de Fulbourne was forced

to take legal action in an attempt to retrieve her jewellery in the form of a girdle and ten gold rings. She had pledged these items as security for a loan of 40 shillings which she had since repaid.

Collections of jewellery and other valuables were also used by the aristocracy to display their vast wealth. While medieval clothing and jewellery were worn for ornamental display, they were also used to proclaim rank and wealth. In the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries a series of sumptuary laws were enacted throughout Europe which formally restricted the wearing of clothes and jewellery by law. This legislation attempted to preserve the hierarchy of society by preventing members of the lower orders from dressing above their station. While it is unclear how successful these attempts were, they illustrate medieval society's perception of jewellery and clothing as a social mechanism for maintaining rank.

Those who had aspirations towards nobility, and could afford to, often imitated expensive jewellery with 'gold-coloured' copper alloys and glass stones. In order to prevent fraud, goldsmiths' guild statutes decreed that only real precious stones were to be set in gold and only inferior stones were to be set in silver or copper alloys. The majority of Irish brooches conform to this rule. However one exception is a 13th century gold brooch from Waterford. It is decorated with filigree and collets set with alternating blue and green glass or paste stones. It is possible that in their original glory they were intended to deceive and that they are evidence of fraud on the part of an Irish or continental goldsmith, although they may also be evidence of the general flouting of such rules across Europe.

Gifts of jewellery played an important part in the highly ritualized courtly love. The inscriptions in Latin or ►

◀ more often French which decorate many ring brooches, show that they were commonly gifts between lovers. A gold brooch from Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford, now in the collection of the British Museum, has an inscription in French which translates as 'By this gift you have the friend you love' (illustrated on p.5). The giving of jewellery to a bride on betrothal and on marriage was a recognized custom throughout western Europe. These gifts most often took the form of finger rings and ring brooches. The exchange of gifts symbolized a pledge of conjugal affection and fidelity on betrothal and marriage. The desire for fidelity from women by their suitors was expressed by the poet Johannes de Hauville in his *Archithrenius* in 1184:

'My bride shall wear a brooch – a witness to her modesty and a proof that hers will be a chaste bed. It will shut up her breast and thrust back any intruder, preventing its closed approach from gaping open and the entrance to her bosom from being cheapened by becoming a beaten path for any traveller, and an adulterous eye from tasting what delights the honourable carresses of a husband.'

A similar sentiment is proclaimed by the French inscription on a 13th-century gold ring brooch from Writtle in Essex, which translates essentially as 'I am the brooch to guard the breast that no knave may put his hand thereon.'

A pledge of unbroken faith was also signified by the incorporation of two pairs of clasped hands into the already symbolic unbroken circle of the frame of the finger ring or ring brooch. Clasped hands brooches were common in Northern Europe, where they were known as 'betrothal brooches'. A gold ring brooch from Trim, Co. Meath, has one pair of clasped hands incorporated into the top of its frame and a pair of joined hands holding a collet projecting from lower part of the frame. The French inscription on this brooch, which translates as 'I am in place of the friend you love' shows that it was certainly a lover's gift. It is possible that the projecting joined hands, represented in a number of Irish brooches, shared the same symbolism as the clasped hands of betrothal brooches. However, the occurrence of religious

inscriptions such as the Angelic Salutation on an Irish gold projecting hands brooch set with a ruby and an opal suggests that some of these projecting hands may be joined in prayer.

Prophylactic inscriptions designed to ward off harm were very common on medieval jewellery. These were usually in the form of religious names or formulae.

At their most elemental, ring brooches were dress accessories, in the form of simple and adaptable clothes fasteners. They were also jewellery worn for personal adornment to enhance the wearer's beauty. However the materials they were made from, their decoration and inscriptions, and contemporary accounts, all indicate the variety of symbolic values that they could be seen as expressing. Certain types would have been perceived as having amuletic qualities and were therefore worn to promote the wearer's health. As jewellery made of precious materials, ring brooches would have served as financial assets which could be realized in times of need.

The wearing of ring brooches must also be viewed in the light of the chivalric ideals of European medieval

society. The collection and ownership of jewellery would have been an important method of accumulating, storing and displaying wealth. Both the financial capacity to acquire and the legal permission to wear jewellery of precious materials would have been important signifiers of wealth and rank. This can be viewed both against the background of an aristocratic feudal society and the growth of a wealthy urban merchant class. Imitative brooches of non-precious metals would have expressed one's desire to rise in the social hierarchy. They also served as symbols of personal social relations, either secretly in the context of courtly love or more openly between brides and grooms to be. Brooches which combined the role of jewellery with that of the badge, blazoned political loyalties and allegiances. Among other things these insights clearly indicate that some elements of medieval Irish society saw themselves as being part of a wider European tradition.

Medieval Ring brooches in Ireland; A study of jewellery, dress and society. Published 1998 by Wordwell. E-mail: sales.wordwell@indigo.ie

A history of Australian opal Can you help?

I have in my possession extracts from two articles written by **Albert Ramsay**, jeweller and gem merchant, who around 1910 entered into a seven-year partnership with **Percy Whitehorn**, younger brother of **John Herbert Whitehorn** of Whitehorn Bros, jewellers of Holborn, London.

Both extracts (dated 1925 and 1934) record his world trip via Ceylon to the opal fields of Lightning Ridge NSW where he purchased US\$50,000 worth of black opal. A local newspaper recorded his visit in 1911.

However, to be able to use these intriguing accounts of his life and dealings in my forthcoming second volume *A history of NSW opal*, it is imperative to know the source of these extracts.

They did not appear in the *Gemmologist* (London) or *Gems & Gemology* (USA) though they seem to be written for US readership, i.e. color (colour) check (cheque) and amounts in US dollars.

Can you help to trace them?

Also I am very interested in any information regarding 'the well known opal expert and dealer Mr M. Albert of Wise Lane, Mill Hill, NW7' (*Gemmologist*, Sept. 1955).

All help would be greatly appreciated and acknowledged.

Len Cram
PO Box 2
Lightning Ridge
NSW 2834,
Australia.

GAGTL Conference 2000

The Barbican Centre, London – Sunday 29 October.

This year's varied programme, including lectures on diamonds, coloured gemstones and pearls, attracted a record audience with delegates attending from Hong Kong and the USA, as well as many European countries.

The morning session was devoted to diamonds with talks by Professor Al Levinson and Dr Paul Spear, and was chaired by Professor Alan Collins, the GAGTL President. Terry Davidson introduced the afternoon session which included talks by Dr Judith Kinnaird, Harry Levy and Robert Fawcett.

Delegates had the opportunity to socialize during the breaks, and to view the many displays and demonstrations. With the expert guidance of laboratory staff, delegates were able to examine under the microscope a green diffusion-treated topaz, and to try for themselves the De Beers' DiamondView and DiamondSure discussed during Paul Spear's lecture. The Brewster Angle meter was another hands-on attraction, with the able assistance of Peter Read and Noel Deeks who had originally developed the instrument.

The second-hand book stall, a 'first' for the Conference, proved very popular, and funds raised will be used to purchase new books for the GAGTL library.

The visit to the Diamond Trading Centre has become a regular feature for those attending the conference. We are most grateful to Lesley Coldham for providing such interesting presentations on the history and the current position of the diamond market.

The curatorial tours of the magnificent Gilbert Collection at Somerset House still took place on the Monday following the Conference, despite the storms, floods and resulting travel difficulties.

A review by Stephen Kennedy of the lectures follows.

Diamonds of Canada

The keynote speaker of the day was Professor Alfred A. Levinson from the University of Calgary, Canada, who since 1988 has had a growing interest in gemmology, and particularly in diamonds. The title of his lecture was *Diamonds in Canada – geology to gemmology to marketing*. He set himself the task of outlining the story of diamonds in Canada from 1899 to the present. It was Professor William Hobbs who first suggested in 1899 that diamonds would be found in the Hudson Bay Lowlands, Ontario, as this was the likely primary source of the occasional finds of diamonds in the glacial deposits around the Great Lakes between 1870 and 1899. The first diamond found in Canada was at Peterborough, Ontario, c. 1920 [exact year is not known]. However, for various reasons (e.g. economic, difficulty in exploring in that area) nothing then happened for 60 years.

Geology of the diamond-bearing areas

A geological overview reveals 28 localities in Canada where kimberlites or other diamond-bearing rocks have since been confirmed. Professor Levinson explained, by means of cross-sections through the Earth's crust, that certain geological areas of Canada have very ancient cratons and how their keels were situated in the proper pressure and temperature environment for diamond formation. It was pointed out that, because of the actions of glaciers that covered much of the country, it was unlikely that any secondary diamond deposits, which are seen elsewhere in the world, would be found in Canada. Glaciers have caused particular problems for exploration and mining in Canada – for instance in the Northwest Territories, 95% of the landscape is the result of glacial erosion and furthermore 20% of the area is covered with lakes. The process of mining exploration starts by selecting the

general area, continues by looking for the dispersion trails of indicator minerals, then the geophysical methods such as airborne magnetometry are used, and finally test drilling.

An interesting market overview for 1999 stated that world-wide 111 million carats of diamonds were mined, valued at US \$7.2 billion, with an average value of the diamonds being \$65 per ct (ranging from \$15 per ct for Argyle to \$325 per ct for Namibia). Canadian mines will likely yield diamonds averaging about \$100 per ct. The grade (carats of diamonds per tonne) of kimberlites worldwide varies between 0.1 and 5 ct per tonne (average 1 ct per tonne); Canadian kimberlites are typically higher than average with some reaching as much as 5 ct per tonne. Thus, Canadian mines will be very profitable in view of their relatively high valued diamonds and high grade of the kimberlite ore.

Diamond exploration

Professor Levinson returned to the Canadian diamond story by stating that serious diamond exploration started between 1960 and 1969 in eastern Canada (mainly Ontario). In the 1970s the find of a 0.25 ct stone in Ontario was considered noteworthy! In 1983 Chuck Fipke, a former Superior Oil employee, formed the company Dia Met.

In western Canada, the first area of exploration success was in Saskatchewan where 71 kimberlites are currently identified around Fort à la Corne, two near Candle Lake, and one at Sturgeon Lake. The kimberlites of Canada generally have a different structure compared to those in Africa. The cone shapes typical of Africa are not found in Saskatchewan, for example, but instead the structure consists of a narrow vent, which is a conduit for kimberlite material to rise through the crust and explode into the atmosphere, scattering and settling over a wide area. The success of exploration in the Saskatchewan area can again be understood by the excitement that was shown in naming the 'Star of the Saskatchewan', a crystal weighing 0.49 ct. ▶



Keynote speaker Professor Al Levinson

◀ In Alberta about 35 kimberlites, mostly in the Buffalo Hills area, have been found to date. Up to 94% of the province was staked in 1998 for diamonds by companies as large as Ashton Mining Ltd and by individuals. One of the diamond bearing kimberlites was overlooked initially even though it was being used as a helicopter pad by petroleum geologists!

Northwest Territories

Since the early 1990s particularly it has been the turn of the Northwest Territories, which is now the most important and promising region for diamond exploration in Canada. Chuck Fipke started tracing indicator minerals from the west in the early 1980s, placing particular emphasis on the sampling of eskers (a type of glacial deposit formed by sub-glacial streams), and found that the trail led eastwards and ended at Lac de Gras in the Northwest Territories. The now well-known Ekati diamond mine, owned by BHP Diamonds Inc. (51%), Dia Met Minerals Ltd. (29%), Charles Fipke (10%), and Stewart Blusson (10%), opened on 14 October 1998.

The separate pipes which are (or are likely to be) mined are called Panda, Misery, Koala, Fox and Sable. Each pipe has a characteristic ore grade (ct per tonne) and value (\$ per

ct) of their contained diamonds, e.g. the grade of the Misery mine is highest (4.26 ct per tonne), but the value of diamonds in the Panda mine is the highest (\$130 per ct); the latter is likely to provide the best returns. Exceptionally, at Panda the kimberlite contains pieces of cedarwood indicating the presence of a forest when the pipe exploded skywards. This has enabled an age of about 54 million years to be assigned to this volcanic event.

Mines

The Ekati (meaning Fat Lake) mines are highly automated and operate under strict environmental controls. Before mining could begin, under takings had to be given to return the landscape to its original condition when mining ceased. This includes even the regeneration of the fish species in the lakes. In 1999 the Ekati mine, specifically the Panda pipe, yielded 2.51 million ct of diamonds.

The nearby Diavik Mine owned by Rio Tinto and Aber is looking promising as well. There will be a need to dyke off a section of the Lac de Gras to access all four pipes in this project, the main ones being A154S and A418. The grade of A154S is 5.2 ct per tonne and it is valued at \$60 per ct, making this the richest ore of diamonds in the world (~ \$300 per tonne). The combined proven plus probable reserves of the Diavik pipes is said to be 107 million carats. By 2002 it is hoped that it will be producing 5-6 million carats a year.

The Snap Lake mine owned by De Beers (until recently owned by Winspear) and Aber is in a dyke kimberlite rather than the more common pipe shape. The reserve is about 22 million ct. Annual production of 1-2 million ct is expected in 2003.

Thus by 2004 Canada should be producing about 10 million ct of diamonds, which will represent about 10% of world production by weight and 15% by value. This production will be comparable to that of South Africa.

In concluding the geological overview Professor Levinson stated that at least 448 kimberlites had been identified in western Canada, of which 90% had been identified in the last decade.

Marketing

Moving from geology to marketing, the main centre for diamond cutting is at Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories, although there is some diamond cutting elsewhere in Canada. Most of the Canadian diamonds, however, are cut in other countries. Prior to local consumption or export, all Canadian diamonds pass through the hands of the government valuer, who is based at the Ekati Sorting and Valuation Office at the Yellowknife airport. The 14% royalty levied plus the taxes earned from the rest of the industry are believed to earn the government C\$130 million annually.

Each Yellowknife cutting factory (of which there are three at present) is committed to taking on local trainees for the benefit of the local economy, and each uses branding to market its diamonds. For example, the Sirius factory uses a polar bear as a brand, while Deton'cho uses a snowflake. The attraction of a Canadian diamond to the diamond trade now is that assurances can be given to the end consumer that these diamonds are not mined in areas of conflict and are not being cut and polished by child labour.

Professor Levinson concluded by humorously commenting to us that the fifth 'C' of diamond grading to follow on from the 4 'Cs' of colour, clarity, cut and carat weight, is 'Canadian'.

The Gem Defensive Programme

The second lecture of the morning session was delivered by Dr Paul Spear of De Beers DTC Research Centre in Maidenhead and was entitled 'The Gem Defensive Programme'. Dr Spear commented initially on the strategic review that De Beers has undergone. The Diamond Trading Company (DTC) will be the marketing arm with a new logo – De Beers will be used as a brand name in future. DTC is now the suppliers of choice expecting their customers to adopt a series of best practices, relating to conflict diamonds and other ethical issues, full disclosure of information and protecting the environment, and ensuring

that these practices continue downstream in the supply chain.

Consumers are much more aware of the jewellery trade and its issues through the internet and general rumours. In 1999 it was estimated that on a worldwide basis approximately 30 million ct of gem diamonds were sold, 2500 ct of synthetic diamonds, 55,000 ct of synthetic moissanite and 900 million ct of cubic zirconia. De Beers is involved in research at its establishments in Maidenhead and Johannesburg, and also through projects with universities around the world. Twenty-six diamond promotion centres around the world coordinate their efforts with the jewellery trade.

Synthetic diamonds

Synthetic diamonds were the first to be considered under the Gem Defensive Program. General Electric first synthesized diamonds in the late 1950s. The companies Gemesis, Chatham, Morion and Ultimate Created Diamonds are recent names involved in distributing and/or making synthetic diamonds. Most production is sourced in Russia and Ukraine, but Gemesis has imported the presses to synthesize the diamonds in the USA.

Most synthetic diamonds being produced are yellow/brown and there are very few near-colourless stones. The identification features were outlined in relation to inclusions, colour zoning, and fluorescent and phosphorescent characteristics. Dr Spear then moved on to review two instruments developed in De Beers laboratories, the DiamondSure and the DiamondView. The DiamondSure identifies the presence of the 415 nm absorption line in a diamond. The 3-5% of stones that are not passed by the DiamondSure are referred for further testing. The DiamondView can be used to distinguish between the often rather complex growth structures of a natural diamond and the much more definite sectored cubo-octahedral and dodecahedral growth zones seen in a synthetic diamond. Both the DiamondSure and DiamondView were available for

demonstration over lunch and afternoon tea breaks.

Treated diamonds

Dr. Spear then concentrated on the high pressure/high temperature (HPHT) treatment of diamonds. He first considered the treated colourless stones known by such names as Pegasus (GE POL), Monarch and latterly Bellataire. The diamonds distributed by Lazare Kaplan are being graded by GIA and laser inscribed – up to September 2000 this consists of about 2000 stones. Recent articles by GIA, SSEF, Gübelin and De Beers themselves have led to the belief that the vast majority of these treated diamonds can be identified. An absorption band at 270 nm in the ultraviolet region of the spectrum indicates likely treatment. The most promising area is that of photoluminescent spectroscopy, where the greater, although still low, concentration of single nitrogen atoms in the treated stones leads to ratios of infrared peaks which differ from those in untreated stones. DTC are working on a prototype instrument so that this method could be more widely available in gem laboratories.

NovaDiamonds of Utah have used a HPHT treatment to produce fancy yellow/green diamonds. Their spectra

visible with a hand-held spectroscope are unusual, and in the near infrared there is commonly a peak at 985 nm.

Gems of Somaliland

The first session of the afternoon was entitled 'The sparkle in Somaliland' and was presented by Dr Judith Kinnaird. She is a Research Fellow at the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa, and went to Somaliland on a EU promotion project to establish whether any gemstones were being produced in Somaliland. On her first visit, early experiences of being shown gemstones by the nationals demonstrated the urgent need for gem information and for training. She described how tanzanites were being confused with fluorite.

Gemstones have been known in Somaliland since 1988 and they occur in a broad band of rocks roughly parallel to the Gulf of Aden. Emerald is found in the Alihiley area in a contact zone of pegmatites and black mica schist. In the Samodi area haphazard mining of similar deposits has created an unsatisfactory situation with potential flooding and earth movement risks. In this region about 200 miners live in some ten huts ▶



Peter Read instructs Christine Woodward on the use of the Brewster Angle meter.



Dr Judith Kinnaird

◀ and live on about \$10 per month. Recently an emerald crystal was sold to a Dubai Indian for \$3,500, which was sold on for \$15,000.

In the eastern part of the gem bearing belt, aquamarines have been found at the contact zone of pegmatite and granite (no chromium present to produce emerald), but the material is highly fractured so cut stones tend to be small.

Gemstone deposits

Some gemstones occur in metamorphic nodules – a number of which have ruby cores with a surrounding green margin of the chrome mica fuchsite. Green sapphire cored nodules have also been found and there are reports of blue sapphire occurring in nodules at greater depths. Ruby and sapphire are not found in the same deposits.

Grossular and almandine-pyrope garnets are found, but a claimed green grossular (tsavorite) was found to be vesuvianite. Opal nodules are found in gypsum anhydrite sedimentary deposits as against the rhyolite deposits of the Ethiopian opals. In the past they have mined some 200 tons of crystal quartz. Smoky quartz and weakly-banded amethyst are also found, as are red spinels, green apatite, clear topaz, and lots of zircon. The reported find of an alexandrite turned out to be watermelon tourmaline.

The future of Somaliland as a gem source was explained, with reference to its position in the Mozambique belt where the folding and heat flow caused by continental collisions has led to rock suites ideal for producing gemstones.

In conclusion we were invited to a produce fair being held in Somaliland in February 2001 where as well as gemstones henna, frankincense, and honey will be on display!

What's in a name?

Harry Levy of Levy Gem Company, London, next introduced a completely different topic with a novel approach to the issue of gemstone disclosure. His discussion was philosophical and he explained that the meaning of a word has two main components: its connotation and its denotation (or designation).

Gem disclosure was described as what you tell a customer about a gemstone apart from its name. The problems that the advent of different treatments have brought to the trade was illustrated using the example of sapphire. It used to be a problem to match the colours of a set of good-quality sapphires to meet the demand for a suite of jewellery. The heating of white geuda and other cloudy and light-blue stones produced a much larger stock of good-coloured stones, making the task of matching stones a lot easier. However, as they became easier to obtain they became cheaper, and eventually, in order to sustain the market of naturally-coloured unheated stones, the trade asked the gem laboratories to determine if a stone had undergone heat treatment. The trade has also asked laboratories to identify the extent of 'glass' filling in a treated stone, particularly treated rubies, which takes the process into the realms of grading. The demands of the trade on laboratories have now reached the stage where the laboratories are being asked to research the treatments that can be applied to gemstones.

The laboratories have also been accused of damaging the trade in relation to providing opinions on the country of origin of gemstones, whereas in fact the laboratories had responded to an early trade request to distinguish

Thai from Burma rubies, which were being sold together.

The gem trade is now changing rapidly. There are those advocating colour grading of all gemstones using machines. Jewellery is being sold for its looks with less attention being paid to value. As a result the distinction between natural and synthetic stones in the consumers' minds has become blurred. Greater amounts of jewellery are being bought, much imported from the Far East, and their intrinsic value is a lot less than it used to be. Sentimental value can be attached to any item of jewellery. There is even an occasional demand to display the beauty of the unfashioned crystal by mounting it in jewellery in its rough state.

South Sea cultured pearls

The last lecture of the day was given by Robert Fawcett of Cultured Pearl Company, his subject being 'South Sea Cultured Pearls – their place in the market'. South Sea cultured pearls (SSCP) are usually 9–17 mm in diameter. The main producers in order of importance are Australia, Indonesia, Philippines and Burma (Myanmar).

Nippo Pearls of Tokyo, a Japanese/Australian led company, commenced culturing in Australia in the 1950s in Kuri Bay. The Australian cultured pearl trade is highly regulated, particularly in relation to the collection of wild oysters.

Cultured pearl production

A video of the second largest culturer in Australia, Broome Pearls, showed how the cultured pearls are produced and come to market. The wild oysters are collected in February by divers 'drifting' along the sea bed and placing oysters in net bags around their necks. The divers expect to do nine dives a day, each lasting approximately 40 minutes. The collected shells are eventually returned to the sea in panel nets and are left until their first operation in July. The operations are carried out on a boat in clinically clean conditions and the technicians are based in quarters below sea level for increased stability. After the mother-of-pearl bead is

implanted with the flesh graft the oysters are returned to net panels suspended from a long line. They are cleaned throughout the year and are checked by X-ray radiography to ensure that they have retained the nuclei. After two years the cultured pearls are harvested and a new nucleus of the same size as the cultured pearl removed is inserted into the oyster to produce a second harvest. Sometimes, if the oyster is in a good condition, a third harvest is produced. The last operation is to produce a half cultured pearl, where a hemispherical nucleus is glued to the inside of the shell. The processing is done back on land, where the cultured pearls are tumbled with waxed and oiled bamboo chips before all the normal sorting and marketing.

Robert Fawcett then spoke about the black lipped Tahiti cultured pearl (TCP) market, which has been developing since the 1970s. The black lipped oyster is easier to look after than the white lipped Australian oyster, so the production rates can be higher, to the

extent that there are about double the number of TCPs on the market compared to white SSCPs. However, there is a shortage of good-quality TCPs above 13 mm in diameter, since the culturers cannot wait longer than the two to three years needed for larger sizes.

The white lipped and black lipped oysters also produce keshi cultured pearls (saltwater non-nucleated cultured pearls).

The market today

The cultured pearl market in Japan is best known for nucleated cultured pearls from the akoya oyster in the 4–10 mm size range. However, this market is now being squeezed by SSCPs at the top end, where a 9–10 mm SSCP is cheaper than a 9–10 mm akoya cultured pearl. Other factors are also affecting the Japanese trade and these include an oyster virus, the economic recession that has noticeably reduced the local consumption of cultured pearls, and closure of the government quality con-

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Also to **Barclays Bank plc**,
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trol office. All these have led to a decline in the importance of Japan as the centre of the cultured pearl trade.

Stephen Kennedy

Book Shelf

Treasures of the 20th century

The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths, London, 2000. pp 184, illustrated in colour. Softcover, ISBN 0 907814 30 5. Price £15.00.

The resources of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths have enabled it to commission for permanent retention outstanding works of art from leading designers and craft workers: items representing the century just passed total approximately 1500, this figure covering silver, jewellery and art medals. Not all (only 569!) are shown in this beautiful catalogue but there are quite enough for the visitor to marvel at and for some to find the inspiration to start a career with precious metals and stones. The Company is also a generous benefactor of studies in a variety of forms.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries the Company's practice of rewarding outstanding technical work in silversmithing and the gradual accretion of items for what was soon to become a national and later an

international collection than the gradual recognition and acquisition of the work of men and women who were to become recognized as especially innovative designers: though at first such pieces were regarded as background material to the mainstream collection of silver. By the late 1930s and due in great measure to the efforts of George Hughes, contemporary work was being added to the collections with a view to encouraging and broadening the general public's taste in ornamental artefacts.

The further development of this enlightened trend can be followed in successive chapters of the catalogue. The items chosen are excellently illustrated, each caption giving the name of the artist, dimensions and material, marks, details of entry to the collection and a general comment on design. The main text is followed by a directory of marks of 20th century makers, designers and sponsors of pieces in the collection and then by a short bibliography. The lead-in to

each chapter gives a useful overview of the period and of the trade and craft conditions illustrated.

Michael O'Donoghue

A gemmologists' Guy Fawkes evening in Surrey

On 5th November, a diligent group of gemmologists stood in the pouring rain (some under umbrellas) waving sparklers, and watching rockets (those that could be lit) soaring into the stormy sky. It is good to know that as the country descended into the chaos of floods and transport collapse, gemmologists, at least, still displayed the traditional English stiff (if somewhat damp) upper lips. A jolly time was had by all!

Hydrophana

Gems and jewellery in the Woodwardian Collection

The Woodwardian Collection in the Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge, has gems and jewellery amongst the Geological Collection bequeathed to Cambridge University by Dr John Woodward.

Collected between 1688 and 1728, they are of interest for their provenance, early date and descriptions in the catalogue produced in 1758 from Woodward's notes. He endowed a Professorship (the first in Geology), to preserve his collection, give four lectures a year and show the collection gratis to 'all such curious and intelligent persons as shall desire a view'.

The gems and jewellery consist of two gem-set rings (one amethyst and one citrine), several loose gems, and a number of types of cut and polished stones. In addition, the collection contains around 9000 specimens of crystals, rocks and fossils. Woodward believed the latter were plant and animal remains, a concept hotly disputed in the 17th century.

The two rings are interesting both for the gold and enamel work of the rings themselves and for the set stones. One has a faceted amethyst and the other a citrine described as a topaz.

The catalogue of 1758 gives their origin as Kings Weston, Gloucestershire; they are described as 'set in a Gold Ring', with no details as to their maker. Neither ring is marked in any way; nevertheless the high quality gold and elaborate enamelling suggest an expensive commission, probably for Woodward himself as there are no signs of wear on the rings.

Amethyst ring

The amethyst ring is the more elaborate of the two, and is of size N. The closed octagonal setting for the stone has raised gold ornamentation with scrolls and a raised triple drop on the shorter sides. Below the girdle are plaques of white enamel with black and a few pink brush-stroke curved patterns. The flat gold back (against

the finger), has the original Indian ink label (C 68). The setting is butt soldered to the D-shaped shank and the shoulders have *champlevé* enamel in white with pink and black decoration in the form of scrolls and leaves, the areas between the gold scroll designs being engraved with fine parallel lines across the surface. In the catalogue it is described as:

'A Stone Crystalline, deep, and with a pretty good water. It has a fine, soft Amethystine tincture, but not equal and alike thro'out ... out of a like Concave Ball.'

The stone has triangular facets but is not a normal rose cut. There are 10 triangular facets at its apex, 24 trian-



The amethyst (left) and citrine rings in the Woodwardian Collection.

gular facets around these, and eight girdle facets (one with a scratch from a tool) and a closed setting. The amethyst measures 9.5 mm diameter and has a zone of deep purple with pale areas on either side of it; the prominent zonation is similar to that of five unmounted amethysts (No. 28, A7), which have flat backs and six central triangular facets with surrounding facets in a rose cut. One is badly chipped. The 1758 Catalogue describes them as 'four stones cut and polished out of a concave Ball from the same place. They are all of the colour of Amethyst'.

Citrine ring

Stones 26 and 27, described as 'topaz', are from the same locality as all six amethysts. These citrines (RI

1.544 and 1.553) may be an early example of 'heat treatment' if part of the same find as the amethysts. These stones had been cut for Woodward; he was a member of the Royal Society and 'professor of physick' at Gresham College in London.

The citrine ring is size G (very small) and mounted with stone 26 (see above). The setting has 12 crescents forming claws in gold and 16 small panels of turquoise enamel below the girdle. The ring shank has turquoise *champlevé* enamel between gold scrolls and is D-shaped in cross section. The stone is yellow-green in colour, rose cut, with six central and 18 triangular girdle facets. The point is slightly damaged and there

is an extra small facet cut in one of the central ones. Two small black inclusions are visible and two veil inclusions at right angles to the table facet. The stone is in a closed setting and may be foil-backed. In the Catalogue, No. 26 is described as a 'Topaz or Shoot of the Ball' ... 'Kings Weston, Gloucestershire', and No. 27, an unmounted golden brown citrine, as 'another Topaz. Cut of a like stone from the same place'. It has a rose cut top and a hexagonal outline with six tri-

angular facets, 18 facets around these and eight girdle facets. The pavilion is a step octagonal cut with a square culet. There are small black and cloud-like inclusions.

Comparison with other 17th-century rings

The rings in the Woodward Collection may be compared with other 17th century rings. A sapphire signet ring of Mary II is more massive and not enamelled. Some of the early 17th century rings in the Cheapside Hoard have similar white opaque enamel, black painted enamel decoration and the shoulders of the rings enamelled. Turquoise opaque enamel is used in a similar scallop design round the lower part of the mount, but the enamel is white, not turquoise. The

Woodward rings are heavier than those of the Cheapside Hoard and more like the 'posy' rings of plain gold inscribed inside the band, which were fashionable at the time.

Rock crystals

Three other faceted rock crystals (RIs 1.544 and 1.553) show different cuts. Two from Ashburn in the Peak are cut with the table facet octagonal, 24 triangular facets above the girdle which is thick and unpolished. The pavilion has eight facets, a step to a further eight, and a large square culet. Stone No. 17 was described in the Catalogue as:

'A crystalline flint cut Diamond Ways. Tis of a clear Water and fine polish. Twas found in a Field near Croyden, Surry'.

It has an oval, well polished table facet and 24 triangular girdle facets above. The pavilion has eight facets, a step with four facets next to a rectangular culet.

Three further pieces of polished crystal are of interest. The first is a crystal ball (No. 12) of 49.5–49.8 mm diameter with a fairly scratched surface described as 'a Crystal or Pellucid Flint wrought into an orbicular form. Found somewhere in England.' The second is a lens-shaped piece of crystal, rather scratched, of 35 mm diameter. The Catalogue admits, 'This was given to me for English, but I have forgot where twas found and the parson that gave it to me is now dead'. The third is a cabochon with a tall ridge along the top (50 mm in length). The only other faceted stone is in the Foreign Collection in Cabinet E, where there is an eight-cut quartz with a cutting fault.

Gillian E. Mallett

Court jewellers

The SJH and the Society for Court Studies are minded to hold, in 2002, a joint conference on Court Jewellers. It is envisaged that this would cover the objects supplied, together with the role of Court Jewellers as financiers.

Suggestions and offers of papers would be greatly appreciated. Please write to the SJH Chairman.

Fish Brothers lead the way in staff training

A Diamond Training Course for Fish Brothers, the retail jewellery chain, was launched in October.

Tailored by the GAGTL to the needs of Fish Brothers staff, the course manual contains the information that is often used during a sale, including what diamond is, how it is formed and mined, and the factors that affect the price.

The course outlines many of the problems facing jewellers today, namely simulants and synthetic and treated diamonds.

The course includes a one-day practical seminar where staff are given instruction on the use of basic instruments and on weight estimation.

If you would like to know how the GAGTL could produce a course tailored specifically to the needs of your company, please call Doug Garrod or Shelley Keating on 020 7404 3334.

Doug Garrod

Workshops? ... Join the queue!

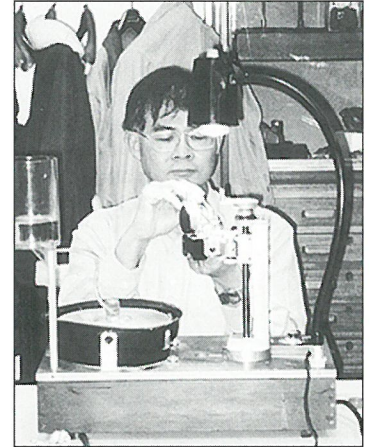
Are you just one of the many people who have had the misfortune of attempting to book one of GAGTL's short courses and workshops of late and found, alas, that the course you wanted was full?

During the past months the proverbial 'inn' has been packed to capacity so that gem enthusiasts from all over, following the twinkle under our microscopes, have found that we could accommodate them only with a place on the waiting list!

Over the past year we have been working hard to broaden the range of one- and two-day events offered here at the Gem Tutorial Centre in London and with some of the new workshops sparking everyone's interest, the knock-on effect has been a sell-out term and ever-lengthening waiting lists for 2001.

The *Two-day stone faceting* weekends from which pleased-as-punch participants left the premises with a stone they had cut and polished themselves, have become so popular that more of the same are planned for next year. *Sketching for sales and Sketch II* have been releasing the hidden artists within, while the *Bead-stringing workshop* has had people tying themselves in knots in the scramble for spaces on the course!

Gemmological updates have done exceptionally well too. *Diamonds* –



A student learns to cut and polish a stone at the faceting workshop.

past, present, future, which we ran with the cooperation of De Beers, saw a very encouraging majority of participants from the trade, as was the case too for Coloured stone update.

The Spring/Summer 2001 workshop calendar contains more brand new titles including a one-day tutorial *Photographing jewellery*. Space is limited at this and all the workshops, and so the moral of the story is ... *book early ...* in fact, to be on the safe side ... *book now!*

Shelley Keating

Treasures of Catherine the Great

25 November 2000 to 23 September 2001

The Hermitage Rooms, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 1LA

Open Monday to Saturday, 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

Sunday and Bank Holidays 12 noon to 6.00 p.m.

The inaugural exhibition of the Hermitage Rooms, entitled *Treasures of Catherine the Great*, will present a dazzling mix of jewels, wrought silver and gold, ormolu-mounted hardstones, glittering Tula steel, gold medals, antiquities, paintings and portraits, including Russian, European and Chinese works of art. This exhibition will be displayed in a suite of rooms on the ground floor of the South Building of Somerset House. The décor of the Hermitage Rooms will recreate, in miniature, the imperial splendour of the Winter Palace and its various wings which now make up The State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg. This imperial shell will provide the backdrop for rotating exhibitions from the collections of the Museum in St. Petersburg, providing a window on Russian art and history.

Further information on www.hermitagerooms.com

The Art of Jewellery and Artists' Jewels from 1900 to the present

March–June 2001

Museo degli Argenti, Pitti Palace, Florence

This exhibition traces the past enthusiasm for collecting fine jewels which began with the 'Galanterie Ingioiellate' of Anna Maria Luisa de Medici to the present day. The 'Galanterie' were small bejewelled and and fantastic objects originally created by goldsmiths in northern Europe in the sixteenth century which inspired the production of a series of precious pieces decorated with blister and baroque pearls. Anna Maria Luisa, the last of the Medici, left her collec-

tion to the city of Florence, and further additions to the collection from the 19th and 20th centuries include some precious Cartier pieces. The Museum provides the ideal setting for an exhibition on jewellery from 1900 to the present day, offering an exploration of these extraordinary jewels with reference to the history of taste and fashion and an enquiry into artistic genius which created them.

Art Nouveau Fans

9 December 2000 to 4 March 2001

The Fan Museum, 12 Crooms Hill, Greenwich, London SE10 8ER

Open Tuesday to Saturday 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m., Sunday 12 noon to 5.00 p.m.

The exhibition explores how the Art Nouveau style inspired fan makers and painters during that short period prior to World War I. In the 1880s fans in Europe and North America were highly fashionable and were an essential feminine accessory. Between 1890 and 1914 they were to undergo a radical change, a variety of new shapes emerging and increasing attention being given to the inherent symbolism of the Art Nouveau movement.

Tortoiseshell and mother-of-pearl fans will be amongst those displayed.

Rock 'n' Gem Shows

Hatfield House

Hatfield, Hertfordshire
20 and 21 January

The Hop Farm

Beltring, Paddock Wood, Kent
27 and 28 January

Brighton Racecourse

Freshfield Road, Brighton,
East Sussex
24 and 25 February

York Racecourse

York
10 and 11 March

Cheltenham Racecourse

Prestbury Park, Cheltenham
31 March and 1 April

Kempton Park Racecourse

Staines Road East (A308),
Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex
7 and 8 April

Shows open 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Admission: Kempton Park £2.80 (seniors £2.25); all other shows £2.25 (seniors £1.75). Children 8–16 years £1.00, under 8s free.

Details from The Exhibition Team on 01628 621697.

New gem museum in Sri Lanka

On the initiative of Gamini Zoysa, a new gem and mineral museum has been opened at 48 Station Road, Mount Lavinia, Sri Lanka. The museum houses collections of rough minerals and crystals, fossils found in gem gravels, faceted stones and cabochons including star stones and cat's-eyes. There is also a display of stamps depicting gems and minerals.

Pictured right is Professor Pieter Zwaan, Chairman of the Netherlands Gemmological Laboratory, speaking at the opening ceremony.



Winter Events

GAGTL and SJH London events – details of times and venues given on p. 16

23 January: SJH lecture

Twentieth-century jewellery at auction

DAVID LANCASTER

David Lancaster has worked with Christie's South Kensington for 20 years, where he is a Director and Head of the Jewellery Department. He is also a Committee Member of the Society of Jewellery Historians. His lecture will be illustrating jewellery examples of each decade, from the kitchen table workshop of the Arts and Crafts design school, through to the steel and glass high technology studio of today's designer craftsmen. The 1900 Exposition Universelle in Paris launched Art Nouveau to an enthusiastic audience but two world wars and immense social upheaval led to a challenging range of contemporary designs.

1 February: GAGTL lecture

Psst! Wanna buy a diamond ring guv?

STEPHEN WHITTAKER

Stephen Whittaker is the Managing Partner of Fellows, which is probably the UK's largest by volume jewellery auctioneer. His talk will be based on a provincial auctioneer's view of selling jewellery and the assessment of gemstones at auction, the role of qualifications in this market and the growing importance of the internet.

27 February: SJH lecture

Goldsmiths' Company's contemporary collection

ROSEMARY RANSOME WALLIS

Rosemary Ransome Wallis is Curator of the Collections of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths which number some 8000 items and range in date from 1300 to present day. She is considered an authority on the work of contemporary designer and artist craftsmen, working in the disciplines of silver, art jewellery and art medals. She acquires new work for the Collections for exhibition, both in the UK and abroad, and advises outside patrons on new commissions. In 2000 she wrote the catalogue and was

Competitions

An audacious attempt was made to steal the De Beers Millennium diamond collection from the London Dome. Fortunately the thieves were trapped and caught, and nothing was stolen.

The main item of the collection is a 203 ct pear-shape diamond of the very top quality. Other stones are a range of natural blue diamonds, each unique and well documented. What the police and media find intriguing is what the thieves would have done with these stones.

It is hard to imagine such an elaborate plot had been set up and acted out to steal the collection without a clear plan of disposing of the stones. For the current puzzle my question is, what did the thieves hope to do with such a well-documented and unique collection of stones?

Prize

A copy of the latest edition of *Famous Diamonds* by Ian Balfour, kindly donated by De Beers, will be awarded for the most original idea, no matter how bizarre!

The book, beautifully produced with excellent full-colour illustrations, appropriately portrays the Millennium Diamond on the front cover.

Replies by 16 February please.

responsible for the Company's major Millennium Exhibition 'Treasures of the 20th Century'.

1 March: GAGTL lecture

Gemstones from the Hindu Kush

GUY CLUTTERBUCK

Guy Clutterbuck has been buying gemstones in the rough since 1983 from Zambia, Thailand and Afghanistan, and learnt how to cut gemstones in 1987. He worked alongside Mujahadeen in Afghanistan during the Russian occupation, specializing originally in lapis lazuli from Afghanistan but then focusing on all the gemstones from the Hindu Kush. Guy has built up a business which encompasses the domestic market, Europe and the United States, sourcing stones from Africa and Asia.

2001 GAGTL Photo Competition

Born yesterday

Gemstones are mined, cut and refashioned every day, with many more stones being 'created' in laboratories around the world. To celebrate the new Millennium, submit your picture of a gemstone 'born' (or even 'reborn') during 2000.

All entries will be judged for originality, beauty and gemmological interest.

The following prizes will be awarded: First Prize £100, Second Prize £75, Third Prize £50.

Full details and entry forms will be sent to all GAGTL members.

Answer to the last competition

The last puzzle seemed more popular with you as I received several replies. The easiest solution is to drill a hole somewhere near one edge, suspend the ingot with a nail or a pencil through this hole. The ingot will come to equilibrium and a vertical line through the hole is the line to saw the ingot. The weights on either side of this line will be equal.

Harry Levy

He will be speaking on the gemstones from the Hindu Kush with a visual slide tour of the pink topaz mine in Katlan, the emerald mine in Swat, and a previously unseen (by western eyes) tour of a ruby mine in Kashmir. In addition to a comprehensive talk with slides and maps covering most of the Hindu Kush region, samples of gems will be displayed.

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.

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 GAGTL member (£6.00 for a non-member) unless otherwise stated.

1 February. *Psst! Wanna buy a diamond ring guv?*
STEPHEN WHITTAKER

1 March. *Gemstones from the Hindu Kush*
GUY CLUTTERBUCK

22 and 23 March. Visits to De Beers

Each visit will be at 2.00 p.m. Tickets available to GAGTL members and their guests at £5.00 each (inclusive of VAT).

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.

26 January. *Gemmology Quiz and Bring and Buy.*

23 February. *What's new in gemmology?*
ALAN HODGKINSON

30 March. *The toyshop of Europe.*
SHENA MASON

27 April. *A new combination gemstone finger-printer and high refractive index refractometer.*
DR JAMIE NELSON
this meeting will include the Branch AGM.

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 March. *Jewellery of the Art Nouveau era coupled with the art of René Lalique.*
DAVID CALLAGHAN

Scottish Branch

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

16 January. *Quiz Night and buffet*

21 February. *The quest for Scottish diamonds*
JOHN FAITHFULL, Curator at the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow University

4-7 May. Scottish Branch Conference

Queen's Hotel, Perth

The programme will include:

ULRIKA AL KHAMIS. *Averting the Evil Eye: Semi-precious stones in Islamic culture*

RICHARD DRUCKER. *Coloured stone guide. Gemstone values: sources of reference*

ERIC EMMS and ANA CASTRO. *D is for Gemmology*

CALLY OLDERSHAW. *Gem collections of the Natural History Museum: tales behind the gems*

The conference will include a workshop session and a field trip.

South West Meeting

Sunday 21 January. 2.00 to 6.00 p.m.

Royal Literary and Scientific Institution, 16-18 Queen Square, Bath

Following a strong response to a questionnaire circulated to members in the south west of England and Wales, a new group is being formed, and an inaugural meeting is to be held in Bath. Speakers will include Dr Roger Harding, Director of Gemmology at the GAGTL, and others from the trade.

For further information please contact Bronwen Harman on 01225 482188.

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.

23 January. *Annual General Meeting followed by DAVID LANCASTER of Christie's, South Kensington.*
Twentieth century jewellery at auction.

27 February. *ROSEMARY RANSOME WALLIS, Curator of the Goldsmiths' Company, will be talking about the Goldsmiths' Company's contemporary collection.*

24 April. *MAIREAD DUNLEVY, National Museum of Ireland. Later jewellery (17th -20th century) at the National Museum of Ireland.*