

# Gem & Jewellery News

The Quarterly Bulletin of The Gemmological Association  
and Gem Testing Laboratory of Great Britain and  
The Society of Jewellery Historians  
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## The Millennium 'Hedgerow' Crown

In September 2000 'Blue Peter', the BBC television's flagship children's programme\*, launched a competition inviting its viewers to submit designs for a crown of the 21st century. The winning entry would be made up in the Asprey and Garrard workshops and the finished article would be placed in HM Tower of London.

The response was amazing and 20,620 children sent in their designs, which covered all manner of subjects including famous landmarks like the London Eye and Big Ben. There were three age categories in the competition: 7 years and under; 8, 9 and 10 years; and 11 to 15 years. The Governor of the Tower of London, the Crown Jeweller, and the 'Blue Peter' presenters Konnie Huq and Liz Barker, judged the entries.

The award winner was Georgina Elliott aged 11, whose design was a crown featuring the countryside hedgerow made up of blackberries, hawthorn berries, rose hips and wheat sheaves, in a green meadow. When asked what her inspiration was she



*The crown designed by Georgina Elliott aged 11. The front of the crown is shown above, and the back is illustrated right.*

responded, "I wanted to produce something that might disappear in the future and would look delicate, and I thought the hedgerow design would look really nice."



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\*For international readers less familiar with the 'Blue Peter' series, it was first transmitted in 1958 and is the longest continuously running children's programme in the world, and well known for its symbol of the blue ship.

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**In 1962 Robert Webster addressed the successful students at the Presentation of Awards ceremony in Goldsmiths' Hall and made some observations about what a career in gemmology might involve and what might be required of a fully professional gemmologist in the future.**

"By the mid-thirties, things had begun to change," he said. "New instruments and new techniques were introduced which affected practice more than theory and this development had continued. After the war the change had been complete. This had mainly been caused by the search for new minerals with possible war uses, and many found their place as gemstones. This had continued until today there were present problems in gemmology to which the answer was not known."

Robert Webster forecast that the gemmologist of the future would need to know far more chemistry, physics and electronics than had been needed hitherto. He foresaw that the gap between the 'trade' gemmologist and the scientific gemmologist would widen.

Perceptive thoughts! But what has actually happened in nearly 40 years of gemmological expansion and what does it indicate for our future?

The 1960s saw the introduction of gem quality synthetic diamond and two very convincing diamond imitations – yttrium aluminium garnet (YAG) and cubic zirconia (CZ). After the first few months, YAG and CZ caused no serious problems to most in the jewellery trade and it was many years before synthetic diamond made an impact. In the last four decades there has been a stream of new discoveries of natural gems, particularly in E Africa and Madagascar, and these have joined the supplies from the more traditional sources such as Brazil, Myanmar and Sri Lanka. Hitherto, the identification challenges posed by new natural and new synthetic gems have been dealt with essentially by a two-stage process: (1) the use of traditional practical methods in gemmological laboratories; (2) then, if required, the use of more specialist (expensive) analytical

methods in university, museum or geological survey.

Arguably the major change in this period has been the penetration of the gem market by natural stones, treated to enhance their appeal. The commercial rationale behind exploration for fresh sources of natural gems has inevitably led not only to marketing the gem-quality stones that are found, but also to treating the near-gem qualities to increase profitability. Here, detecting the effects of treatment is not quite so straightforward as distinguishing between natural and synthetic. Changes in a gem due to treatment are commonly gradual, and small changes can be hard to see. New methods involving infrared and Raman spectra have been employed to detect and measure such changes, and although very good and very useful within their known limits, interpretation of results can be at best qualified and at worst misleading.

Both traditional and specialist methods mentioned in 1 and 2 above benefit from databases established over 100 years or more. During this time they have been subject to review, revision, criticism, testing and refinement until now – particularly for such data as chemical composition and X-ray structure – they are reliable and undisputed as standards.

The situation for infrared and particularly Raman spectroscopic data is not nearly so satisfactory. Comprehensive databases of these spectra are trailing the proliferation of new products or new modifications of existing materials.

So who will supply these databases? The gem trade wants answers to questions of fissure filling, irradiation and heat treatment now – and this brings us back to Robert Webster's observation.

Doubtless there will always be problems in gemmology to which the answers are not known, but isn't there a need – for the future health of our profession – to make a determined effort to establish quality databases to support the analytical methods we most use?  
*Roger Harding*

## A new start for CIBJO – new President invites wider representation

The annual CIBJO Congress was held in Paris in April. Like many other national and international organizations in the jewellery industry, CIBJO has for many years worked on a very limited budget. It has had competent treasurers during all the years, but there has been little scope for introducing money into the CIBJO coffers other than through subscription from its member countries. These are in turn dependent on their own national organizations which are traditionally careful with their money. So over the years attempts to raise the subscription fees have been resisted or kept to a minimum with very modest increases.

All this seems to be changing under the dynamic leadership of its new President, Gaetano Cavalieri. He is a Sicilian and uses his background in 'not taking no for an answer' when he tries to raise money. In Paris we were able to accept five new members – Canada, Egypt, Lebanon, Russia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) – mostly due to Mr Cavalieri's canvassing. He has also brought in the Gemological Institute of America (GIA), Diamond High Council (HRD) and International Gemmological Institute (IGI) as associate/sponsor members to join De Beers and the World Gold Council who have been associated with CIBJO for many years. He is in the process of getting sponsor-

ship from the many trade fair organizers and he has already got some involved. All this is bringing in many thousands of dollars to CIBJO and will allow it to participate on a grander scale internationally.

### *Wide representation*

He also invited the World Federation of Diamond Bourses (WFDB) as well as a representative of Global Witness, one of the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) involved with conflict diamonds. De Beers had a larger than usual delegation to the Congress including Anthony Oppenheimer and Rory More O'Ferrall. Robin Buchanan-Dunlop of the Goldsmiths' Company was also invited, making this CIBJO Congress one of the most representative of the many sections of the jewellery trade for many years. It all goes to show that if someone is willing to invite and cajole, then people will participate and all will benefit.

### *After care for gemstones*

At the Congress all the Sectors and Commissions met. At the meeting of the Coloured Stone Commission the revised format of the Blue book was accepted and the go-ahead was given to produce an 'after care' appendix for gemstones. This will be very helpful for the retail trade in that the appendix will act as an implicit disclosure manual. All stones will be listed alphabetically, all known possible treatments for each stone will be included and advice will be given as to how to care for the stone to avoid damaging it.

### *South Sea pearls*

The Pearl Commission has had great problems with the clear denotation of all pearls. The main contention is with the South Sea and similar pearls. They are known as Tahitian, South Sea, Australian and so on, but never described as 'cultured'. The purists in the trade have been advocating for years that the word 'cultured' must be used when referring to them.

The sellers of these pearls claim that if they now start to call them cultured this would confuse the public, as they no longer compete with a natural counterpart. It could affect future sales and possibly bring in litigation for the many thousands of pearls already sold.

The status quo has been, grudgingly, accepted but now those who have been selling 'cultured pearls' claim their term is redundant, as everyone who buys such pearls knows that they are cultured and they are never confused with the non-cultured ones. Merchants now call the pearls 'real, natural or Oriental' and never simply 'pearls'. The general trade feels that giving way on the South Sea pearls now gives some sort of legitimacy to drop the term for all cultured pearls, and similar arguments could then be used in future to drop the term 'synthetic' from man-made stones. This problem will, I am sure, be aired at the ICA Congress being held this year in Australia, which will be attended by many of the pearl suppliers. It will be interesting to see if they come up with any solutions or recommendations.

### *Conflict diamonds*

The first item in the meeting of the Diamond Commission was again conflict diamonds.

Many of the guests spoke on this matter during the Congress, and there was a lively debate. This is a very serious problem which could, if mishandled, affect the whole jewellery trade. Conflict diamonds is a loose term applied to stones coming out of areas in Africa in which there are civil wars; various factions get hold of diamonds, sell them and use the money to purchase arms and thus prolong the wars. Such activities have been mainly in Angola and Sierra Leone, but the problem has now widened to adjoining countries, as the rebels now find that they cannot easily sell the diamonds from the actual conflict areas. The stones are thus smuggled to neighbouring countries to reach the international markets.

### **New Chief Executive for NAG**

Retailing specialist Michael Hoare has been appointed Chief Executive of the National Association of Goldsmiths (NAG). With 18 years' experience within the international retailing industry, he is the ideal candidate to lead the NAG following the departure of Jack Ogden in 2000. Hoare previously played key roles at the British Shops & Stores Association.

Conflict diamonds have not had much of an impact on either the UK or the European markets. However, the British government is at the forefront in controlling the problem and heads the Kimberley Group, a body consisting of government representatives, NGOs, all sections of the diamond trade, banks and couriers, which is trying to devise methods of controlling the flow of rough diamonds from the conflict areas by some form of certification and frontier controls. Trade magazines should publish reports on new developments in this field and all those involved in the buying and selling of diamonds should try to ensure that the stones they handle are conflict-free.

### *Diamond grading*

One unscheduled but important issue resolved at the Congress was the final agreement for the completion of the report ISO/TC 174 for the grading of diamonds. Part 1 of this paper, No. 11211-1, was agreed several years ago; this was the part on terminology and classification. Part 2, 11211-2, the section on test methods, had been argued about for several years, particularly on the issue of the grading proportions of a diamond. The GIA and CIBJO do not grade proportion, but the International Diamond Council (IDC), through its main laboratory the HRD, have always recorded this on their reports. As members of the IDC had also been invited to the Congress and were present, this meant that most of the working group on the ISO papers were present, and at the invitation (insistence) of the President of CIBJO Mr Cavaliere, there was an ad hoc meeting of the working group and they were able to announce that agreement had been reached. There was a compromise on the proportion grading question, in that it was made optional; but laboratories had to be consistent in that if they wished to give proportion grades they should do this for all their diamonds and not on just the well proportioned ones. This agreement clears the way for the GIA to add their name to the paper, as one of their technical objections has now been removed.

We shall have to see the final paper when it is published, hopefully by the end of this year, to know exactly

what is in it. Briefly it lays out a universal methodology for grading diamonds which laboratories will be advised to follow. For example, it lists the light sources approved for use and how the stone should be positioned when grading for colour. It is a very comprehensive paper and will be essential for anyone wishing to grade diamonds correctly as agreed by the trade.

One crucial part still missing is a standard set of master stones. During the discussions both in the Congress and outside the meetings, opinions were voiced that the master stones used by the GIA, CIBJO, HRD and Scan DN are compatible with each other, but at this stage this has not been made explicit. It has taken fifteen years to get this far and one must congratulate the members of the working group for their patience and effort. All agreed that a special vote of thanks should go to Ken Scarratt, who was the technical advisor to the group.

### *Laboratories*

The Laboratory Commission failed to make any progress. Several

years ago the name of the CIBJO Recognized Laboratories was changed to CIBJO Registered Laboratories. This was done to acknowledge the fact that CIBJO had no control over the laboratories, as many were now independent of their national associations, and also to make it easier for important laboratories, who had no links with their national associations, to have closer connections with CIBJO.

The place of laboratories within CIBJO remained unresolved. There was no time to consider a draft registration document, which will eventually detail equipment, staff levels and services offered. This will allow a prospective client to determine which laboratory they can use to supply a particular report. For example, not all labs can provide origin reports; the information on the register would allow one to determine which labs can do this. It remains to be seen what the response will be to the questionnaire and whether this will lead to revised meeting arrangements at the next Congress. *Harry Levy*

## Marketplace

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

The gemstone markets have been fairly steady in the last few months. There are plentiful supplies of sapphires from Madagascar, both blue and pink, and they continue to be cut in Sri Lanka and Bangkok. In both cases they are sold as local products with no indication as to the origin of the rough. Rubies from Burma continue to be plentiful and with reported new sources in Madagascar, better looking commercial goods are available. Prices still continue to fall and the appearance improve, a rare combination for any product.

Peridot, aquamarine, and red shades of tourmaline are plentiful in the cheaper and commercial grades. Blue zircons are again being cut in Bangkok, although there are indications that the rough is of African origin. Orange and green garnets seem to be

coming from several sources in Africa, although the prices are being held for the time being. Tanzanites are again being seen, but prices are still higher than the levels before the mine incidents, so there is resistance to buy at the present.

After all the adverse publicity about fissure filling in emeralds, the trade has begun to accept that emeralds have their fissures (cracks) filled with resins rather than oils, and that many of the fillers are synthetic rather than natural products, or mixtures of the two. More emeralds are now being bought than, say, a year ago.

Cutters and dealers from the gem producing and gem cutting centres continue to visit their customers in the West and the States, rather than wait for dealers from these countries to come to them. This continues to aggra-

## Letter from India

If you think that things are not too good on your home patch, let me tell you about recent events in Bombay (Mumbai). Last June a local courier absconded with an estimated \$10 million worth of diamonds and cash. Two diamond traders in Bombay used clients' money to speculate on stocks and lost it; shamed, they committed suicide.

There is an alleged misappropriation of funds in a project to build a Diamond Bourse complex. There is at present no Bourse and no funds to build one.

There are more and more cases of traders and brokers absconding with other traders' goods. There are low sales in the local market and the export market due to crashes on the stock exchanges. And both De Beers and Argyle are tightening the screws with stricter rules and regulations, and price increments in rough diamond prices at frequent intervals. This is the view from Bombay.

vate and upset local importers who see themselves as being marginalised. Manufacturers and retailers do not necessarily get a bargain when a cutter or dealer knocks on their door. He often tries to get a higher price, rather than sell at his normal price, and he also now has to cover travel expenses and hotel fees when he travels. Also there is no comeback should there be a problem with the stones purchased as there is with local dealers.

A new problem has arisen with the detection of laser-drilled diamonds. In the traditional method there would often be a visible clear straight laser line and a laser hole on the surface of the diamond. New methods now leave no hole, a finer laser beam is used and it is focused inside the stone so that the heat generates what looks like a natural feather in the diamond. The laser beam is zigzagged so that the traditional straight line is no longer seen. Problems of detection of treatments will continue to become more acute, and those who devise the treatments will try to overcome the detection methods. This, in

spite of short term gains, will only harm the gemstone trade, unless people consistently disclose treatment; if they do not, the trust will go out of the trade.

Overall markets in coloured stones continue to be steady. Demand for the lower and cheaper range is decreasing and one cannot sell marked goods easily, but there are adequate supplies in the medium commercial range of goods. As always the top end continues to be very expensive and very rare, especially in untreated stones.

Through the vigilance of one of our local auction houses, it transpires that the small square rubies and sapphires set in invisible settings in some jew-

ellery produced in Bangkok, are in fact synthetic stones, although the rest of the jewellery is in 18 carat gold and diamond set. The jewellery is beautiful to look at, but no disclosure was made by the seller that the coloured stones (or at least some of them) were synthetic. At this stage it is hard to know if this is an isolated case, or the tip of a far larger practice. If it is the latter, then one can imagine the litigation that can ensue, especially in the United States.

Finally if, as a buyer, you find that the price of something is too good to be true, the odds are that it is too good to be true! Beware.

Harry Levy

## The problems of 'recycling' jewellery

### Pauline Gregory recalls some items brought in for remake

**Although I am still a student of gemmology and studying for my diploma, I use gemmology in my work every day. I work with my husband, a designer jeweller and goldsmith, in the north-east of England. Our work is fairly unusual, in that we specialise in 'recycling' old jewellery, which presents its own particular problems and interests.**

"Could you look at this old bracelet and brooch for me – I think it's rubbish. It's 1920s costume jewellery. Perhaps you could set the big stone in a ring for my little granddaughter."

I was looking at ten large, blue, sparkly, stones. Chipped facet edges and doubling of facets and chips seen through the stone were visible with the naked eye. A 10x loupe revealed little more. We had to remove the largest stone from its mount to test it further. No reading was obtained from the refractometer, but the spectroscope showed a strong absorption line in the red, so they had to be enormous zircons. The stones were not as damaged as I would have expected, but they were set in jewellery that was meant for evening wear and I was informed that it had always been kept 'in the knicker drawer'! After enquiring at some of my usual stone dealers, I estimated that the stones would cost me several thousand pounds to replace. When the stone was set in the new mount, I



*The original jewellery, minus the large stone*

advised the owner not to give such a valuable ring to a child, but I am still not sure if she believes me.

We specialise in re-making old or broken, or simply unfashionable or disliked, heirlooms. The identity of the stones that we re-set has to be determined at the outset, because many clients need to know if the monetary value of the stones merits a specially handmade mount (unless the stone is simply of sentimental value). Clients come to our country studio with an extraordinary range of items to be set, re-designed or re-made. A client arrived with a 27 ct red stone that her son had brought abroad, saying that she thought the name of the stone started with an A. I said that she was correct, it was 'A' tourmaline!

# Operation geode . . . it went a little like this

## Shelley Keating reports on the 2001 GAGTL tour to Idar-Oberstein, Germany

### Sunday 22 April

*07.30 hrs:* Everyone is on the bus ... except GA's own Sarah and myself, who are still deep inside HQ doing battle with the security system. Trip-wires and booby-traps reset, they join the group and 'Operation Geode' is launched.

*10.30 hrs:* Dover passport control. Member of 'crack team' interrogates group leaders re: nationality of party. Group leaders advise "One American, one Australian, one Japanese, one Chinese." Passport control person satisfied, we board the vessel.

*18.00 hrs:* Arrive Gethmann's Hotel where the troops are fed (i.e. stuffed with the regional speciality 'spiesbraten'). Extremely contented troops bed down early in idyllic surroundings in readiness for early morning assault on an unsuspecting Idar.

### Monday, 23rd April

*09.30 hrs:* Depart for Steinkaulenberg mine. Troops don yellow hard-hats and

enter the mine. Amethyst, jasper and all manner of geodes are seen in situ and troops make all manner of appreciative noises.

*14.45 hrs:* Arrive at the Bieleschleife, (historical cutting workshop) where wonderfully archaic system of wheels and pulleys powered by water wheel outside have whole group enthralled. The 90-year-old Edison light-bulbs still glowing overhead cause much camera snapping. So does the ease of Ernst Biehle's single-handed overhead lifting aloft of a block of haematite the size of a small child. (Note, troops were unable to budge said block more than 1.5 cm clear of worktop. Troops need bulking up.)

*16.00 hrs:* Arrive at workshop and showroom of Erwin Pauly where very famous master cameo engraver very kindly makes individual intaglios for each of the troops. Exquisite work in Herr Pauly's showroom leaves many speechless.



*Carved flowers form a wonderful display at Emil Becker's showroom.*



*Troops at Steinkaulenberg mine.*

### Tuesday, 24th April

*09.30 hrs:* Depart hotel for Gebrüder Bank where Professor Bank shows the troops some of his very special rocks. Troops also see specialist cutting workshop in action where highly skilled individual sits cutting more very special rocks while posing for photos.

*12.30 hrs:* Professor Bank invites whole group to lunch where troops enjoy Idar's—and Mrs Bank's—own very special hospitality before visiting German Gemmological Association.

### Wednesday 25 April

*09.30 hrs:* Depart hotel for Oberstein museum where troops are dwarfed by giant single crystals of quartz. Much hugging and taking photos of said crystals ensues. Troops successfully fight off urge to smuggle giant crystals home (always a touch-and-go moment every year).



Erwin Pauly producing intaglios for each member of the group.

12.30 hrs: Some of troops decide to make assault on Oberstein castle involving heroic slog up sheer cliff-face. Church protruding from rock-face half way up is closed. Troops con-



Peter Dwyer-Hickey tries (unsuccessfully) to hide in the giant rock crystal vase in Helmut Wolf's showroom!

tinue to 'walk the walk' up the hill expending much energy enabling them to 'sleep the sleep' easily that night.

#### Thursday 26 April

09.30 hrs: More museum antics involving lots more billing and cooing at the stones and crystals in the Idar museum. Gem heaven.

14.00 hrs: Coach takes troops uphill to Kirschweiler to descend *en masse* upon Helmut Wolf and his work. Scale of Herr Wolf's enormous pieces causes incredulity bordering upon reverence amongst the troops. Some wanted to climb inside giant rock crystal vase and live there. Group leaders Ian and Susannah advised against this move as Smithsonian Institute, Washington, may decide against purchase of said vase if it comes complete with resident gemmologist.

15.30 hrs: Group arrives at Emil Becker's showroom where Manfred Wild displays bewildering collection of gemmy work. Fairytale objects on view cause some troops to wonder if all this is not reality but, in fact, mass delusion induced by hallucinogenic local food.

#### Friday 27 April

09.30hrs: Troops mobilise early to infiltrate premises of every gem-dealer in 5 km radius. Wide-eyed buying contin-



An opportunity to examine the gem collection of Gebrüder Bank.

ues all day and frenetic activity only ceases with return to hotel and customary swim before dinner.

#### Saturday 28 April

09.00 hrs: Group leaders have difficulty persuading troops to return to London as idea to mutiny and take up residence in Idar (gemmology heaven) Oberstein much bandied about hotel bar before lights-out Friday night.

10.30 hrs: Arrive at Trier where detachments of troops head variously to chocolate shop, coffee rooms, Basilica, and Elena Villa studio for secret peek at her design books and latest jewellery creations.

21.00 hrs: All gemmed out and back in Farringdon. Troops dismissed ... until next year.

## Idar-Oberstein 2002

Full details will be published in the September issue of *GJN*

# Perth 2001

## A report on the GAGTL Scottish Branch Conference by Adrian Smith

**Friday evening is always a happy time at our conference, great reunions of friends, many of whom have not been seen since last year's gathering. Everyone is full of expectation for the coming few days together.**

Ulrike Al Khamis from the National Museums of Scotland delivered the first lecture of the conference. She spoke extremely knowledgeably and eloquently on the subject of gems used in the Islamic culture.

Ulrike pointed out that the commonest form of protection was the amulet, which was worn to ward off evil. A talisman, on the other hand, was believed to bring luck to the wearer. Many materials were used for amulets and talismans, but the commonest materials were gemstones. Ulrike went on to illustrate with the aid of slides the history of the methods used to ward off the 'evil eye' including the various gemstones used for this purpose, their fashioning and their meaning. It was a fascinating insight into a subject that few, if any, present knew anything about.

The following meal, that was enjoyed by all within the hotel was a time to catch up on the news from all over the country and abroad, and a great opportunity to meet some of the new faces that joined the regular 'die

hards' this year. As always, discussions and merriment continued into the wee hours.

### *Gem values*

Saturday morning saw the keynote speaker, Richard Drucker, who had flown in from America to join us. Richard is well known to all as the compiler of *The Guide*, the publication dedicated keeping subscribers abreast of prices of coloured stones and diamonds. Mr Drucker also publishes many gemmological books.

He presented his talk entitled 'Gem values' in which he outlined the objectives, limitations and advantages of *The Guide*. By including the assembly in a hypothetical valuation, he demonstrated the use of his publication by valuing a couple of stones. He explored the relative values of materials from various locations and explained the reasons how these prices are affected by world events.

### *Cultured pearls*

Following a break in proceedings for refreshments and more fellowship, John Carter of Cellini gave a good-humoured talk on pearls. He principally covered the growth of the Chinese freshwater cultured pearl industry and



*Pairman Trophy winner, Harriet Clayton, at the AGM.*

its effect on prices, fashions and its consequences on the traditional Akoya pearl market. The meteoric advances made in the shape and size of the Chinese product was discussed with many amusing personal stories of his experiences in dealing in this market.

Then followed lunch and an opportunity for the major sponsors to advertise. We were able to purchase gemstones from the display laid on by Marcus McCallum and books from the GAGTL bookstand.

### *Diamonds*

In the afternoon we saw a joint presentation from Eric Emms and Ana Castro called '*D is for gemmology*'. With the aid of illustrations they outlined features of the various types of diamond and the cause of trace colours within them.

They then explained the tests that a laboratory would have to carry out to distinguish between the types.

### *GAGTL – the future*

Jean-Paul van Doren was introduced as the new Chief Executive of GAGTL.



*(From left) Brian Jackson and Alan Hodgkinson (Scottish Branch Chairman and President respectively) relax with keynote speaker Richard Drucker.*





Keynote speaker Richard Drucker outlining the objectives of The Guide

Jean-Paul spoke of his background that extended from being part of a diamond cutting family, to working for various Bond Street Jewellers, setting up a laboratory with two well-known gemmologists and studying psychology! He was responsible for introducing the GA courses into Italy and obviously has a keen interest in gemmological education.

He outlined his proposals and visions for the future of the GAGTL that include a larger presence in the education sector, a restructuring of the company and retail premises in London selling gemmological equipment.

Jean-Paul is obviously enthusiastic and committed to the success of GAGTL, and is keen to meet the challenges that present GAGTL with energy and skill. He was presented with a cased sample of the very finest Scottish fresh air which was arranged especially for this occasion and later exchanged it for a more fitting gift filled (several times) with Drambuie!! (We don't very often make mistakes but when we do, we do it extremely well.)

### Annual General Meeting

The Chairman's report recounted that talks and field trips were well attended and that education programmes that had been put in place were proving successful.

In summing up, Chairman Brian Jackson stated that the Branch's com-

mitment to create enthusiasm in gemmology north of the Border remained undiminished and hoped that plans for the coming year would take things a step further. The treasurer reported that the Branch was in a sound financial position.

The existing committee were re-elected and a new member was added.

The Pairman Trophy, for the student in Scotland with the highest marks in the Preliminary Examination, was awarded to Harriet Clayton and the Ness Trophy, for the Diploma Examination, would be awarded at a future meeting to Ms Lee-ona Donnelly.

Several good suggestions and comments were received from the floor.

### Ceilidh/Dinner

Saturday night is always a popular social event. The evening was spent in the company of delegates and friends, and the music, dancing (of a distinctly Scottish flavour) and laughter continued well into Sunday morning.

### Gemstone treatment and trends

Richard Drucker opened proceedings on the Sunday with an interesting talk entitled "Gemstone Treatment and Trends". Many topics were discussed including how fashions can dictate colour preferences and the tricky subject of treatment disclosure.

Richard gave an account of how prices are researched by his company and gave several examples of how dramatic price fluctuations can be caused by such diverse topics as media presentation of consumer issues and importation of gem materials from one gem producing area to another.

### Museum gem collections

Roger Harding was next on stand and gave an interesting view into collections within the Natural History Museum. He focused on some of the benefactors and their specimens, starting with gemstones and carvings in the Sloane Collection, which dates back to 1753. Many fascinating facts were relayed to us on various objects. One of the more unusual was a carved argillite pipe from the Queen Charlotte Islands. It transpired that our very own Museum in Perth also has an outstanding collection of these items.

Following lunch our delegates had the opportunity to wander freely among our many workshops and demonstrations which included inclusion photography, pearl grading, faceting, seal engraving, interesting diamonds, agate microstructures and displays from private collections. Many of the delegates were given the opportunity to try some of the skills presented to them. ▶



Charlotte Hodgkinson and Camilla Nichol 'prospecting' for garnets at Ruby Bay.

◀ In the evening, we enjoyed dinner at a local restaurant for more discussions and generally putting the gemmological world 'to rights'.

### Field trip

Monday was another glorious day, but on this occasion we had the opportunity to be outside in the sunshine. For those that did not need to hurry back to matters of business, the rest of the day was spent flat out on the sand among the rocks at Ruby Bay in Elie, so called for its presence of garnet crystals weathered out of the rocks. Many samples were found, one member of the group finding two sizeable cuttable pieces.

Yet again the Scottish Branch Conference goes from strength to strength. Each year seems impossible to better. This is largely due to the commitment of the committee and the enthusiasm of all who attend. This year more than perhaps any other, we received many notes from people from all over the UK that wanted to express their disappointment at not being able to join us. Like all those who do manage to travel to us, they realize that gemmology and fun really do go together extremely well.

## The 'Hedgerow' crown (cont. from p.33)

The Crown Jeweller, David Thomas, welcomed Georgina to Asprey and Garrard to discuss plans to turn her design into a reality. A further detail was also included, the incorporation of the emblems of the United Kingdom – the Rose, the Thistle and the Shamrock. A second visit took place in March 2001, by which time the crown was well on its way, being made of sterling silver and parcel-gilt, set with diamonds, rubies and amethysts, with enamel. Georgina toured the workshop and helped to hammer a piece of silver into the shape of a blade of grass. There she saw traditional methods of craftsmanship as well as the use of the high-tech laser welder. The crown was over three months in the making, where a team of six in-house craftsmen took more than 500 hours to make the finished piece. She came back a third time to see the final result, which was "beautiful and breathtaking"; the flowers, berries, grasses and wheat sheaves were



*Work in progress on the crown.*

rooted into a frame within a meadow of green velvet.

The Millennium 'Hedgerow' Crown was presented to the Deputy Governor of the Tower of London on 30 March, where it is now on display in pride of place within the Jewel House the home of the Crown Jewels.

*Corinna Pike*

## Museum News

### Jewelled Arts of India in the Age of the Mughals

**An exhibition of Mughal jewellery on view at the British Museum until 2 September 2001.**

Some high points of the jewelled arts of India in the days of the Mughals are shown in a small exhibition at the British Museum, most of the exhibits coming from the collection of Sheikh Nasser Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah of Kuwait. While there are enamelled and gem-set pieces in abundance with enough daggers to start a small insurrection, the eye will inevitably turn to the many examples of beautiful jades, gold, enamel and gemstones. Knowing that the Timur ruby was to form part of the display I sought it out, finding it among other red spinels (all rough, all large and carved) in a case of their own. They are very beautiful and the system of small internal case lights, now in common use in the major muse-

ums, shows them off very well. Look also for the lustre of some of the large flat faces on the diamonds.

Large carved emeralds are also featured in their own case – in the case of emerald the carving prevents the glassy look seen in some of the clearer faceted stones. Two small emerald birds took my eye – look for them when you visit the show, whose catalogue, at £18.95, is very good value with virtually all the major exhibits illustrated (ISBN 0 500 97608 2). A review of the catalogue will be published in the July issue of *The Journal of Gemmology*.

If you miss the exhibition you can catch up with it at the Metropolitan Museum, New York, in October. I looked in my pocket on returning home to see if the emerald birds had roosted there by accident but they were too wise!  
*Michael O'Donoghue*

### Sponsorship

Grateful thanks are due to the following sponsors, without whose help this event could not have taken place.

#### Major Sponsors:

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Backes & Strauss, Carrick Jewellers, Guild of Independent Valuers, Jamieson & Carry, John Levy, George Lindley & Company, London Precious Stone Laboratory, Ian Mundie & Son, On-Line Appraiser, Perthshire Jewellery Company

# New acquisitions at the British Museum

## The Celtic Warrior brooch

In April, the British Museum acquired at auction a unique 3rd century BC gold fibula. Since 1997 it had been displayed as a loan in the European Iron Age galleries at the Museum, but it will now form part of the collection of the Greek and Roman Department. There is no contradiction, since although its design and probable origin relate to the Celtic cultures of Iron Age Europe, its workmanship indicates the hand of a Greek goldsmith.

The brooch, some 14 cm long, features a superbly detailed miniature sculpture of a naked Celtic La Tène warrior, wearing only a helmet and sword-belt, and confronting a fierce wolf or hound whose forepaws rest on the rim of the warrior's characteristic oval shield. Other animal-heads are incorporated in the intricate and decorative design. The form of the brooch recalls Iberian fibulae of the Iron Age, and the precise rendition of the warrior's helmet, sword and shield enable us to date the piece to the 3rd century BC. Extensive scientific and scholarly studies of the brooch were carried out in the 1960s and 1990s.

The place where this remarkable example of ancient jewellery was found remains unknown, but we may guess at its discovery in a princely tomb or treasure found in the 19th century somewhere in the Iberian

## The Octavian Gem

The Greek and Roman Department of the British Museum recently successfully opposed the export of an important Roman gem dating to the 1st century BC, and have now acquired it, with the financial help of the National Art Collections Fund, the British Museum Friends, and the Caryatids, the international group of supporters of the department.

The gem is a fragment (4.5 x 2.9 cm) of a large oval brown agate plaque engraved in intaglio with the bust of Octavian (later the Emperor Augustus) as the god Mercury. It has a well-documented history, and was once in the collection of the 18th century gem engraver Nathaniel Marchant. The engraving is of exceptional quality, and it has been suggested that it is

the work of the gem-cutter Solon, an artist who, like his contemporary Dioskourides, signed some of his gems.

A companion piece to this gem, likewise with a long history in English

private collections, was already in the British Museum. In the same style it depicts a female in the guise of the goddess Diana, either Octavian's sister Octavia or his wife, Livia. These two matching pieces are now reunited in the national collections,

and at present they can be seen on display in the special exhibition Cleopatra: from History to Myth, which continues at the Museum until 26 August. At the beginning of September, they will be placed on permanent exhibition in the Roman Empire gallery (Room 70).



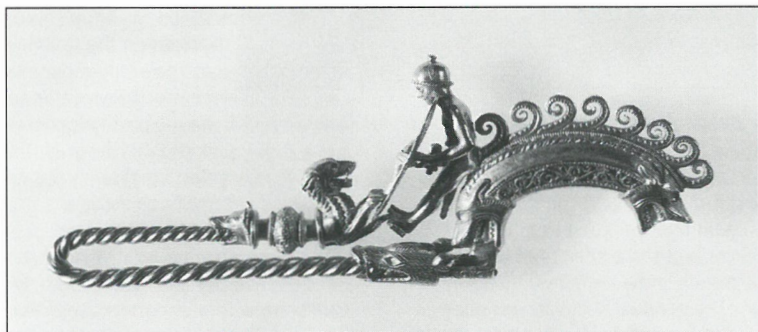
*The Octavian gem.*

peninsula, since its history can be traced back to the Royal House of

Braganza. It was acquired by an American collector in 1941 after the death of Princess Nevada of Portugal, who had emigrated to the USA in 1919.

The brooch is eloquent testimony to the work of Greek jewellers in the 'barbarian' world of Celtic Iron Age Europe. Its permanent acquisition by the British Museum is an important event, and its high price was met only with the help of the Heritage Lottery Fund, the National Art Collections Fund, the British Museum Friends, Roy Lennox, Joan Weberman and other generous benefactors.

*Catherine Johns*



*The Celtic warrior brooch, 3rd century BC. Photo: British Museum*

# A pendant by Omar Ramsden

## Anne Shannon traces a pendant back to the original drawing

During the last two years it has been possible to study and catalogue a quantity of material housed in the Library at Goldsmiths' Hall, constituting an archive of Omar Ramsden's designs for silver, jewellery and objets.

This has made it simpler to search for information on Ramsden pieces, either within the trade or in private collections. Some of the workbook entries contain names of the clients, and among the more interesting aspects of the study has been the tracking of a customer's name through sometimes twenty years of patronage.

The archive consists of a collection of working drawings recently given to the Company (which arrived tightly folded into small manilla envelopes, jammed into wooden boxes), and 19 workbooks dating from 1921-1938, presented some years ago, containing the carbons of orders for church and domestic plate, presentation pieces and jewellery. The books cover the period 1921-1938, after the ending of the partnership with Alwyn Carr, and they show clearly how Ramsden built up a prosperous business using his home and studio to meet clients and discuss commissions, while directing technicians and specialist workers at his workshop premises half a mile further down the Fulham Road, SW London. Ramsden

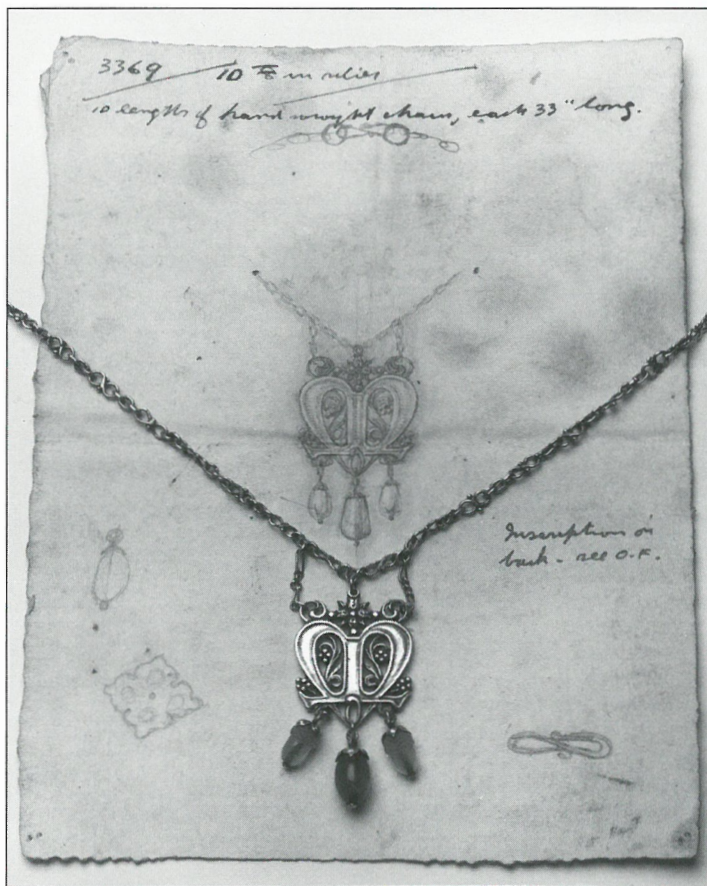
first registered a mark (with Alwyn Carr) in 1898, and continued in business until his death in 1938.

It is not often that a drawing, a workbook entry and the finished piece can be bought together, but when some weeks ago a member at Goldsmiths' Hall brought a pendant on

B. W. Horne from Omar Ramsden in 1930. Horne was the solicitor and family friend of Robert and Wilhelmina Martin (née Kleinwort), a German-born couple living in Denmark Hill from 1872. Robert Martin worked for the Kleinwort Bank as a manager. After his death 'Benny' Horne presented pendants to each of the daughters and daughters-in-law, with the inscription on the reverse '1929 REMEMBER WINNIE & ROBERT MARTIN BWH'. A granddaughter inherited this pendant, along with the brooch (probably converted from a dashboard mascot) and a christening mug (now lost). Two further pendants were still with the family in the 1980s.

The drawing for the pendant found in the Ramsden archive shows the design to be very close, although the chain is shown with plain oblong links rather than the decorative figure-of-eight plus grain elements so common in Ramsden's jewellery. Only the capped beads are a slightly different shape. They are shown on the drawing as pale blue for the centre bead (it is a pale blue chalcedony) and whitish grey for the smaller two. As made up these are tiny

acorns, carved in an almost transparent pale green chalcedony. All three are attached by repoussé caps for which there is a separate sketch on the sheet. There is also a sketch of the existing fastening loop.



The Omar Ramsden pendant and sketch. © The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths.

a chain and a brooch from the collection of an aunt: evidence of both could be traced in the archive.

The pendant, which is designed as a 'Gothic' initial M with three bead drops, is one of ten commissioned by

The workbooks in the archive are records of workshop orders showing detailed costings for materials and labour, plus 40% POR (Profit to Omar Ramsden) and the price to the customer, sometimes with an added comment such as 'but worth far more'. All figures used in the costings are given in Ramsden's private code. This pendant appears as 'Order No 3369, B W Horne 10 memorial pendants, finished Mar 31st 1930'. The calculations show a manufacturing cost of £3 for each, with a price to the customer of £5.

Alongside the calculation is a thumbnail sketch identifying the piece, showing the M-form of the main element but not the bead drops.

Ramsden is known particularly for his work in silver, and for his reinvention of the mazer form. His jewellery has scarcely been studied, although many pieces have appeared in recent years. Formally the jewellery follows the mediaevalising designs of his silver, and usually combines floral or foliate motifs with cabochon semi-precious stones or enamel. It is only rarely

possible to know how many examples of a design were cast, and some are clearly one-off special commissions.

This find is an excellent example of the way in which an archive can assist in identifying a piece, and the story from the family history enhances the interest. I am grateful to Malcolm Chase for bringing it to my attention, and to Christopher Cavey for his assistance in identifying the stones. Thanks are due also to David Beasley and his staff in the library at Goldsmiths' Hall for their continuing support.

## The Gem Discovery Club

### New developments for the Wednesday 'Playgroup'

**The popular GAGTL Wednesday club began its eighth year in March and as write at the end of May we have conducted over 340 sessions.**

The club is to be developed and will include add-on features while maintaining the club atmosphere which is so valued. We are concerned that club sessions should be fun and that participants feel able to suggest, arrange and produce many sessions themselves. Expansion will take place alongside – not instead of – the activities which are so popular at present so that the club atmosphere will remain unchanged. For this reason the name *Gem Discovery Club* is appropriate and some at least of its sessions will be written up as a permanent record. It is planned to achieve a broader range of activities and we will be interested to hear any suggestions from readers of *GJN*.

There are many areas that no groups of this kind have fully explored: among them: taken at random, are gem deposits of different areas (we can back up such topics with examples and literature), the use of geological maps of gem-bearing areas and of such geological equipment as the goniometer (table spectrometer). This needs a residential course and very steady hands but is very interesting to try! Ian Mercer has already begun a discussion, with models, of crystal symmetry with a view to explaining Miller indices; we could progress from this to space group notation and what all the symbols mean in

The evenings do not have to be devoted entirely to gemstones: I have available a very large store of interesting publications on both gemstones and minerals. At present we are introducing ourselves to the simpler modern texts which mineralogists keep on the bench. One of these is 'Fleischer' (now *Fleischer's glossary of mineral species*, latest edition 1999). This gives all accredited species names where

*The informality is prized and each week some fresh interest is produced . . .*

applicable, and best reference in English (to *American mineralogist* unless otherwise stated). Groups have their own section at the end of the alphabetically-arranged main text and it is interesting to see, not only how the number of validated species has increased by about one per week, but also how the groups have increased in size – try the amphiboles! Some mineral collectors are 'species collectors' and use Fleischer to tick off each species as they acquire it.

Looking at what others do in a gem/mineral context is always worth while and educational. Perhaps we miss something in our exam-driven world and we are planning to introduce links with other organizations with whom we might build a working relationship. If you look at some publications from the mineral side you may

possessed and confidently published. They started where many gemmologists did – knowing nothing. This is why the Gem Discovery Club exists.

The informality is prized and each week some fresh interest is produced; the latest was a parcel of four rubies with natural-seeming inclusions. These proved to be cracks induced by thermal shock and the rubies at last yielded the characteristic Verneuil-type growth lines. These were very tricky stones and the first examples we had encountered. Maggie Campbell-Pedersen showed us some narwhal and other tusks,

and among the many specimens currently being examined by the group are an African chrome kyanite crystal of a distinctly bluish-green (but a perceptible red through the Chelsea filter): a fine pink Burmese spinel with a slightly adularescent appearance from inclusions: a blue double star sapphire from Sri Lanka and some small uvite crystals from Burma.

I know that the most careful preparation is always needed for the most informal-seeming events but this can be achieved with the same resources and enthusiasm which has been around for seven years! Today (in general) many people are faced less with rivalry between different activities than between not doing very much and doing something! It would not be too difficult to arrange outdoor activities, such as a day trip to the Natural History Museum in Paris, where, as I write, there is a major exhibition on the

## Granite quarrying on Ailsa Craig

I was interested to read the article by Dr Douglas Nichol in *The Journal of Gemmology* (27(5), January 2001), particularly as the man running the enterprise, David Shearer MacIain Donald, was a friend of mine.

He embarked on the project as a means of getting out of an office environment, the employers for it being Robertson Gem Line, whose ships were named after gemstones. There was much physical work involved, in the steelwork for the building a jetty on the island, the quarrying and cutting and, with a few workmen, plying to and from the Ayrshire coast in an old fishing boat.

David was the son of a Chief of Clan Donald of Islay whose seat was at the now ruined castle of Dunyvaig on the island. MacIain was the handed-down name of the chiefs. Educated at Glen Almond, David became a Royal Air Force Officer, piloting Wellingtons and Halifaxes over Europe. We met in the 1950s through a mutual interest in old cars and sailing, whilst he was on a long course at PERA (Production Engineering Research Association) at Melton Mowbray, from Howdens of Glasgow (largely marine heating and ventilating manufacturers).

He married at that time, and I visited them at home in Glasgow and later in Renfrewshire. The garden paths at the latter home were lined with blocks of Ailsa Craig granite (still a possible source of raw material?) from which the centres had been cut out for curling stones, the smooth finish obtained with both diamond cutters and, I believe, liquid oxygen – certainly a couple of methods were tried to achieve best results. I do recall him saying that their granite was almost the best in the world, i.e. the least liable to chip or splinter, and this is borne out by the tables in the *Journal* article.

Some of the granite blocks found their way to their later home in Argyllshire; after he passed away too young in 1980 from a terminal illness, David's widow sold the big house and had a bungalow built, on a plot blasted

from the rock down near the water, with their boat moored off.

I have the memory of one of the few real friends that one makes in a lifetime – a stocky, dark-haired, jovial and largely irrepressible man, devoted to his wife, family and heritage. We had some amusing times together and tense ones under sail in a couple of Clyde Weeks of the 1950s. His boat at that time, the *Elruna*, was a wedding present, and had been built for a great uncle in about 1900. I heard of it recently in other hands, lying at

Ballachulish.

Rowing out alone after regatta parties in the blackness of night on the Holy Loch to find an unlit 20 foot yacht, as the owner and his wife went to sleep at her cousin's house at Sandbank, is no part of a journal of gemmology, but maybe adds background colour to your interesting article. My own grandfather's sailing ship Master's ticket adorns our dining room wall.

B.R. Worth  
*Stow-on-the-Wold*

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## Exciting new developments for IJL 2001

### Earls Court Two from 2–5 September

**With over 90% of available stand space already booked, an increase of almost 50% at this time last year, International Jewellery London looks to be a bumper show for both exhibitors and trade visitors to Earls Court Two.**

IJL 2001 will bring together over 500 exhibitors from across the globe, many launching new collections at IJL 2001. For those seeking new, innovative ideas and designs in jewellery, precious gift items, silver holloware and luxurious gems, IJL 2001 will prove their one-stop answer. Pre-registration for new visitors can be easily accessed on-line via the website. All last year's retail attendees, however, will automatically be pre-badged.

"IJL will have some exciting new developments this year," explained Helen Shiers, Exhibition Director. "We are launching the Jules Awards, which will be presented on the opening evening in our Theatre of Jewellery. Jules Award categories will include 'Best New Design' for an individual jewellery piece, 'Best New Product

Design' and 'Best New Collection'. As IJL proves popular for Christmas buying, creative Christmas window ideas will be featured in association with the NAG. The Design Pavilion continues to attract talented British designers, who have the vision and originality to bring precious metals and gems together in the most amazing contemporary and unique creations."

In addition to the opening night spectacular, the Theatre of Jewellery will host a glamorous programme of events, with fashion shows presenting the latest in fine jewellery, sparkling gemstones and spectacular silver designs, with clothing by Moschino and Versace. During the show, Doug Garrod of the GAGTL will be presenting one-hour seminars on diamonds and their latest simulants.

Of particular interest to readers will be a new pavilion devoted to the awareness and promotion of gems within the trade today. Displays and demonstrations follow the gem from source to retail display and lighting.

# Summer Events

**GAGTL and SJH London events – details of times, venues and prices are given on p. 48**

**25 June.** GAGTL  
*Annual General Meeting,  
Reunion of Members and  
Bring and Buy Sale*

Following the AGM to be held at 5.30 p.m. there will be the Reunion of Members and again the opportunity to Bring and Buy where members may sell books, specimens or gemmological instruments, or perhaps find some items they have sought for some time!

During the Reunion the winners of the Association's 2001 Photographic Competition will be announced and a selection of the entries displayed. Open to GAGTL members only.

**5 July:** GAGTL lecture  
*The gem becomes the jewel*

## DAVID CALLAGHAN

What factors turn a gem into a jewel? Obviously the gem material has to be fashioned into a recognizable shape making the most of its natural characteristics. But does every jewel contain a gem? "It ain't necessarily so!"

David Callaghan's talk will illustrate the use of many gems turned into jewels, but also will demonstrate how the jeweller can bring to life very ordinary materials that to most of us are not gems. In one instance there will be shown a jewel with a substance in it

that is not even in the syllabus! Mystifying or merely intriguing? You will be able to make up your own minds on 7 June.

David Callaghan began his career in the jewellery trade in 1955 at Hancocks & Co., London W1, where he remained until his retirement in 1997. Over the years he has travelled worldwide in pursuit of fine jewellery and has made major contributions in this country to the NAG as well as to the GAGTL.

**25 September:** SJH lecture  
*Themes and developments*

## DAVID WATKINS

The lecture will give an insight into a fascinating career of a jazz pianist and sculptor, who in the 'sixties became a jewellery designer. Watkins' jewellery started with miniaturized sculptures and went on to develop large scale wearable objects, which interact with the body and simultaneously have an independent existence as an art form in their own right. His versatility is characterized by shifts in techniques and materials ranging from paper to gold. Watkins' artistic idiom varies from severely structured and monochrome minimalism to vibrant and improvisational compositions in form, rhythm and colour.

David Watkins, today a professor at the Royal College of Art, London, represents a contemporary force in international design.

## GAGTL Gem Tutorial Centre – OPEN DAY Wednesday 15 August

Interested in finding out about our diploma programmes and short courses? Why not come along to our open-day and let us whet your appetite for gems and gemmology. Our education staff and tutors will be on hand all day to answer your questions and a programme of short hands-on sessions and demonstrations will give you a real taster of the courses on offer.

The Centre at 27 Greville Street (Saffron Hill entrance), London EC1N 8TN will be open on 15 August from 12 noon to 8.00 p.m. Admission is free.

An Open Day is also to be held in Birmingham on 22 August.

For further information and details of our autumn programme of short courses and workshops, contact the Education Department on 020 7404 3334 (fax 020 7404 8843).

## Competition

This month's puzzle, a somewhat easy one for those with a calculator: how many ten point diamonds do you have to put into an average size diamond packet so that it is no longer empty. A ten point diamond is 3mm in diameter, the diamond packet is 8cm wide by 4cm high. There should be no more than three layers of diamonds in the packet.

### *Answer to the last competition*

What is a Devious Diamond? A few days before I wrote this column one of our customers, a local retailer in the Hatton Garden area, phoned and asked if we could give an opinion on the grade of a diamond he had in the shop. He sent the stone around with a new assistant from his shop. We expressed our view and told the girl. A short time later we were phoned by the shop keeper asking what was wrong with the stone. He wanted to know why we had told his assistant it was devious. We had of course determined the stone to be of D colour and VS quality.

There was one correct solution – from Steven Jordan. Well done!

There still has not been a sufficiently convincing scenario to 'explain' the attempted diamond robbery from the Dome. So let us run this until our next issue. There must be someone out there to concoct an amusing and convincing solution.

I myself, with hindsight, think that it was an inside job by the people running the dome, who could see an imminent closure of the Dome due to lack of funds, and intended to ransom the gems to raise the money to keep the dome going!

*Harry Levy*

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

Sunday 4 November – The Barbican Centre, London

## GAGTL Annual Conference

**Keynote Speaker:**  
**GEORGE BOSSHART**

Further details will be published in the July issue of  
*The Journal of Gemmology*

### 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 £5.00 for a GAGTL member (£7.50 for a non-member) unless otherwise stated.

**25 June.** AGM, Reunion of Members, and Bring and Buy Sale (GAGTL members only, free of charge)

**5 July.** *The gem becomes the jewel*  
DAVID CALLAGHAN

### 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.

**23 June.** (To be held at Barnt Green)  
*Summer Supper Party*

**28 September.** *The implications and problems of gemstones in jewellery valuations*  
RICHARD TAYLOR

**26 October.** *Beautiful opals, Australia's national gemstone*  
JOHN WHEELER

**30 November.** *Wonderful emeralds*  
ALAN HODGKINSON

**8 December.** (To be held at Barnt Green)  
*49th Year Annual Dinner*

### 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.

**20 June.** *Bring and Buy*

**19 September.** *Reading silver hallmarks*  
CHARLES PRESTON

**17 October.** *Pawnbroking throughout the 20th century*  
RAY RIMMER

**21 November.** *AGM and social evening*

### Scottish Branch

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

**24 September.** *Gemstones and geology of South Central Africa*  
ROGER KEY

**17 October.** *Inclusions: highlights from twenty years of gemstone photomicrography*  
CLIVE BURCH

**20 November.** *Jade*  
ROSAMOND CLAYTON

### South West Branch

Contact Bronwen Harman on 01225 482188.

**10 June – Bath**  
*Sapphires of Montana*  
MICHAEL O'DONOGHUE

*Jewellery at auction*  
RICHARD SLATER

## 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.

**26 June.** CHRISTINE REW  
James Cromar Watt

**25 September.** DAVID WATKINS  
Themes and developments

**23 October.** CHARLES TRUMAN  
Microcosms of 18th century art. The gold boxes in the Gilbert Collection

**27 November.** EDMOND CHIN  
Jade