
❖The District of Gemology❖

Volume 2 Issue 2

August 1995

JCK's Robert Weldon Master Jewelry Photographer

* * *

August 8th, 1995

Another issue hits the streets, and another chapter milestone is marked. We now have the minimum requisite for entry into the Chapter Newsletter contest, held yearly by our parent organization. This success is due primarily to the overwhelming support I have received from our chapter members who have volunteered articles for this newsletter. Not only have the volunteers produced articles, but a number of them produced them on diskette, which very much facilitated the publishing process. I believe that

***Volunteerism At Its Best!
Committees of Volunteers
are working to improve
several aspects of our
chapter. The results are
impressive. Read on for info
on how you can help!***

when you read these articles, you will agree there are some real hidden talents amongst our membership!

Please plan to attend the meeting to be held this coming Tuesday, August 8th, at the Holiday Inn in Rosslyn. Note that this is the SAME LOCATION as our previous meetings - just the name has changed! We have the extreme good fortune to present Robert Weldon, a se-

nior editor at Jewelers Circular Keystone.

Many of us are aware of Mr. Weldon's talent as a gem and jewelry photographer, and those who are not aware are in for a tremendous surprise. (But what else would you expect from a chapter board that has produced nothing but the best - month after month?) As our illustrious president, Bobby Mann has mentioned in his letter, we will be having our *Show & Tell* at 7:00pm, wherein our members will challenge themselves (what a sight!) with a myriad (or at least several) difficult synthetic gemstones. The challenge round ends at 7:30pm, when our guest speaker will be introduced.

The Editor



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President's Letter

by Bobby Mann

We are halfway through 1995 with four exciting monthly meetings and our Christmas party and auction still ahead.

Attendance is strong, over 100 have signed up for the bargain meeting fee yearly rate of \$40.00.

During our 7:00-7:30pm networking and socializing time we have added something new, a *Show-and-Tell* table. I kicked off this program in May, displaying my colorless gemstone collection. Carol Scott followed in June, showing examples of her vintage fashion jewelry collection. In July, we brought in examples of interesting eye-visible inclusion gemstones.

If you would like to display your collection, show a new product or instrument or anything that would be of interest to our members, please contact any board member so we can schedule you.

Our Tape Library is growing through donations from members. To view a tape you can pick it up at any meeting and return it the following meeting. The fee is \$5.00 per tape. This is an honor system, and you pay Bill Dougherty, the treasurer when you return the tape.

Our group is growing, committees are forming - get involved - VOLUNTEER! These are important jobs, assist your board in the months to come.

The most important fund raiser of the

(Continued on page 2)

Eight Hours at Javitz

By Davia & Ira Kramer

Arriving five minutes before "curtain up" at 10:00 A.M. for the July '95 JA Show at Javitz Center, along with thousands of other, the top of the escalator featured no less than a dozen D.C. area jewelers. The adventure of holiday shopping was about to begin. But first...in order to enter, our badge, now looking like a credit card, had to be scanned, the first time and every time one entered the exhibit area.

After eight hours and forty very long rows later, we are glad to report that "everything old is new again". Who ever thought that 1995 would bring us lava cameos in three colors, various sizes and carvings. Additional cameos were carved from colored glass, chalcedony, shell, and stamped from just plain gold!

The renaissance look, ie., "Seiden Gang", was everywhere, predominantly with sand-blasted finishes, which were seen on all types of jewelry.

Novelle Bague no longer has a monopoly on enamel jewelry. Indeed, enamel jewelry was plentiful, beautiful, and in multitudes of color combinations. Ambar has spurred the industry into invisible settings, which were everywhere, and not only in diamonds; think ruby, sapphire and emerald, too, alone, or mixed with diamonds.

The David Yurman look was ubiquitous. Every aisle contained at least one booth exhibiting torque style bracelets in silver, gold, silver & gold combinations, all with or without stones. Cabochon cuts were abundant, not only in

the torque bracelets, but in all types of jewelry.

South Sea pearls are definitely here to stay. Anyone who was selling cultured pearls had South Sea pearls in their inventory, in both strands and finished jewelry.

It could be our imagination, but it seems that more manufacturers are selling semi-mounts. Over the last ten years, this category has proliferated.

Also, a note on displays...white, washable and some with colored borders.

There was so much more to see... we haven't even mentioned the watches, the Far-East or European sections or pray tell, loose diamonds, estate jewelry or new designers...or the time spent schmoozing with friends, but the show closed at 6:00 P.M.

Tempus Fugit...when you're having FUN!

(Continued from page 1)

...President's Letter

year is our Christmas Party and Donation Auction. The success of this event allows us to keep the meeting fees low, even with our steadily rising expenses.

We are encouraging all to attend and bring a guest to this party, and participate in the auction.

Donations for the auction are needed. Help make this event the best ever. We call on all members to seek donations and pass them on to the auction committee. The earlier the better.

Sincerely,

Bobby Mann - President
G.I.A. Alumni - Wash. D.C. Chapter

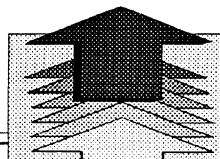


*Have a Heart,
Volunteer!*

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Letters to the Editor

Editors Note: In March, Mr. Richard Drucker spoke on the use of pricing guides for appraisers, and performed an experiment in pricing with those members present at the meeting. The following letter revealing the results of the experiment was sent to us for publication.



April 20th, 1995

To The Editor,

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to the D.C. chapter in March. I would like to commend the officers of your chapter for their dedication and commitment to education. Your chapter is possibly the most active with an amazing 10-12 meetings per year. Keep up the good work and kudos for "The District of Gemology".

At my lecture, I presented statistical data on diamond pricing that may be of interest to your readers that could not attend. I will give a brief review for the newsletter. Also, I did a pricing experiment, and promised to forward the results to you.

When using a pricing publication for diamonds, I warned that you must be fully knowledgeable of the market and where prices fit in that market. Each publication or source has a different way of reporting prices. It is not recommended to simply average prices as they reflect different markets. The Guide represents memorandum pricing. It is currently intended to reflect approximately the upper 10% of the market. Therefore, better cut, "certed" stones would most likely fit into this criteria. Cash discounts and other factors can greatly affect price. Also, dealers closer to the source may also show some discount.

One example was given for an H-SI1, 1 carat round. Of 52 stones sampled from the Polygon computer trading network, the highest asking price was \$4,200.00 per carat. The average of all the G.I.A. certified diamonds was only

\$3,758.00 per carat. The Guide price was \$3,900.00 per carat, slightly above the average. Although some stones were considerably below this price, the cuts were not considered and some were not laboratory graded. Still, it is expected that some will discount and then the price can be considered a good buy.

As for the colored stone pricing experiment, I passed around G.I.A. GemSet pieces that were to represent five actual colored stones from a dealer's inventory. The first assignment (called price 1) was to guess the price per carat with no help. Next, pricing grids from The Guide were displayed, and the audience was asked to once again price the gemstone (called price 2) with the assistance of published pricing. At this point they were still using their own quality assessment categorizing the gem as commercial, good, fine or extra fine. In The Guide, there are quality ratings for various gemstones and GemSet pieces. Having this extra knowledge, everyone would then have the same answer (called price 3). This was the last part of the assignment, and this third price was then compared to the actual selling price.

Most of the participants turned in their work for me to compile the data. Some admittedly were not familiar with gemstones. A few of the answer sheets could not be used for this or other reasons. Approximately 30 answers were compiled for this report.

KEY

Price 1 - Total Guess
Price 2 - W/Guide Grid & Guess
Price 3 - W/GemSet & Guide Grid
Actual - Actual Selling Price

* * *

Aquamarine 11.13 carats

Price 1 - \$35-900/ct.
 Price 2 - \$125-500/ct.
 Price 3 - \$365/ct.
 Actual - \$465/ct.

Kunzite 31.87 carats

Price 1 - \$12-300/ct.
 Price 2 - \$40-120/ct.
 Price 3 - \$85/ct.
 Actual - \$100/ct.

Tanzanite 10.44 carats

Price 1 - \$150-1,100/ct.
 Price 2 - \$300-600/ct.
 Price 3 - \$465/ct.
 Actual - \$475/ct.

Blue Sapphire 4.13 carats

Price 1 - \$175-4,500/ct.
 Price 2 - \$950-5,000/ct.
 Price 3 - \$4,300/ct.
 Actual - \$4,000/ct.

Blue Sapphire 4.28 carats

Price 1 - \$45-800/ct.
 Price 2 - \$100-700/ct.
 Price 3 - \$150/ct.
 Actual - \$225/ct.*

*Note: This stone was selling slightly higher as it was a well cut heart shape and very clean - VVS.

The experiment was designed to show that knowledge and additional tools can greatly benefit the dealer or appraiser when pricing colored stones. Colored stones are highly subjective and pricing is difficult. Price 1 was always a large range. Price 2 was narrower as more knowledge was added. Price 3 added the extra tool of a GemSet grade and these prices were very close to the actual selling prices. One note on the blue sapphires. The group tended to over-value the commercial sample (remember, sapphires can be very inexpensive) and undervalue the fine sample (this was a fine Burma stone, and prices can get that high!).

Richard B. Drucker, GG
 Publisher of The Guide



It Was A HRD Days Night!

The Antwerp Diamond Conference

By Bill Wise

On June 7th, the Belgian Diamond High Council (HRD) held the first Antwerp Diamond Conference at the Four Seasons Hotel in Washington, D.C. A large contingent of our alumni association was present.

After socializing at the registration area we entered the conference to find two large packets of catalogs, pamphlets, information sheets, a calculator, and most intriguing, a pair of 3D glasses.

The opening introductions were made by Mr. Alain Decraene the Trade Commissioner for Flanders. Mr. A. Adam, The Ambassador of Belgium to the United States, gave a short opening talk.

The podium was then handed over to Mr. D. Bellinger, President of the Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Jewellers Association, who spoke about the present status of the local jewelry trade.

An interesting video was then presented about the Antwerp diamond trade industry. It showed how diamonds are mined, cut, and distributed. Antwerp has been a thriving diamond cutting center since the fifteenth century and is expanding it's market share with innovative technological and business ideas.

A presentation was made by Mr. Isi Beck, Vice President of the HRD. He reported a lot of facts including U. S. retailers selling \$12.9 billion worth of diamond jewelry in 1994, and importing \$1.25 billion worth of diamonds from Belgium.

Late to the program was Mr. P. S. Watson, the Chairman of the U. S. International Trade Commission. He was held up by negotiations with Japan in our trade disagreement. Mr. Watson confirmed that U. S. - Belgian trade was very good, then went on to speak about general world trade issues. He did say that we (the USA) are "playing a dangerous game of chicken with Japan" during the present trade negotiations.

Mr. Van Bockstael stressed the importance of closing the differences in diamond grading systems in use in the world today

An engaging video on HRD diamond identification and grading practices was shown next. It specified the details of the HRD diamond certificate, covering their approach to measurements, the 4C's, fluorescence, and cut grading.

The most interesting presentation of the program was given by Mr. Mark Van Bockstael, the Manager of the HRD Institute of Gemmology. His talk covered diamond identification, grading, treatments, and synthetic diamonds. Mr. Van Bockstael stressed the importance of closing the differences in diamond grading between the systems in use in the world today. It seems the first 3 C's, carat weight, clarity, and color, have minor differences which should be easily

resolved. But when it comes to cut grading, we have no standard system in this country. While GIA states a worldwide standard for cut cannot be attained, HRD has a simple grading system in place for round brilliants. Mr. Van Bockstael said a lot of effort is being put into creating a harmonized diamond grading system, mainly through the ISO (*International-Standardization Organization*). Finally, it came time to put on the fashionable cardboard 3-D glasses. We were shown slides of wire frame diamond shapes with inclusions at different depths. One interesting feature was that if you took the glasses off and turned them upside down it made the picture reverse itself so it looked like you were looking at the diamond shape from the culet side. While I could look at the wire frame shapes and see the 3D effect, I couldn't clearly see a 3-D effect with the actual diamond pictures we were shown later.

After Mr. Van Bockstael's stimulating speech, a drawing was made to see who would win a free trip to Antwerp. The winner was a member of the Maryland, Delaware-District of Columbia Jewellers Association.

With the formal program over, a superb buffet dinner was served. A windfall of the biggest and best shrimp was only surpassed by our Belgian hosts most gracious invitation to an enormously enlightening & informative conference.



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| Surbhi Pandya | (703) 823-6278 | |
| Carolyn Chappell | (703) 273-9059 | |
| Carole Scott | (703) 860-0638 | |
| Jean Vitayanewatti | (703) 347-7245 | 1-800-328-7833 ext. 73309 |
| Bill Wise | (301) 843-5617 | (301) 870-8783 |
| Christmas Auction Donations | | |
| Lois Berger - Chairman | (301) 589-7374 | |
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| Gailyn Sanderson - Chairman | (410) 544-5357 | |
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| Tom Mangin | | (703) 821-3344 |
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| Guest Speakers | | |
| Jerry Root | (202) 686-1518 | (703) 522-4881 |
| Elizabeth Mandros | | |
| Jean Vitayanewatti | (703) 347-7245 | 1-800-328-7833 ext. 73309 |
| Christmas Party | | |
| Blas Camera | (703) 476-1511 | (703) 536-3600 |
| Carolyn Chappell | (703) 273-9059 | |

This is the current status of the volunteer committees. It is as up to date as possible, and can easily be amended to accommodate more volunteers. Remember - The more, the merrier! Sharing the work makes it not only easier for everyone, it gives our chapter the opportunity to provide our group and our community more benefits. If you are a volunteer listed above, we give you our thanks for your service, and if you've inadvertently been listed on a committee other than you chose, or if your contact number(s) are incorrect, please advise us as soon as possible, so corrections can be made.

Spot Readings

"Palatable Views for you to Muse"

"Diamonds"



F. Ward, 1993. *Diamonds*. Illus., 64 pp.
publ. by Gem Book Publishers, Bethesda, Md.

This is a very readable book, both enjoyable and educational. It gives a concise, comprehensive overview of diamonds from their formation to their display in your local jewelry store.

We read of the intrigue and mystique of selected stones such as the Koh-i-noor and Eugenie Blue, thought to have come from the Golconda mines 3000 years ago. We follow discoveries from India through those in Brazil, Africa, Russia, Australia, and finally Canada. The book reviews the development of the De Beers syndicate in South Africa through the rivalry of Cecil Rhodes and Barney Barnato.

It tracks the diamond crystal from its inception 100 miles or more beneath the continents to its emplacement in kimberlite pipes and surficial deposits of alluvium and beach sands and gravel. The various mining methods are described from the open pits of early South African days to the modern industrialized operations, both surficial and underground.

The major producing countries are reviewed by quantity of production and by value. The history of cutting is discussed from the early bruting and polishing done in India through the more precisely calculated faceting of the modern round brilliant. The De Beers marketing system and its effect on the industry is examined

from its early acquisition of the South African mines, its sales of rough to sightholders in London, to its recent promotional successes in Asia. The development of synthetics is reviewed from GE's efforts in the 1950s to the current developments in Russia and Japan. The ever increasing industrial uses of both natural and synthetic stones are examined. Advice to the consumer includes discussions of the grading of diamonds, the effect of the four Cs on price and value, and care of the stone.

A couple of minor nits might be picked here and there. On page 15 kimberlite is referred to as "conglomerate", and diamonds are described as forming in an "ooze". Conglomerate is a sedimentary rock, while kimberlite is igneous, and ooze specifically is that yucky stuff which occurs on lake and river bottoms and in certain ocean basins, not the stuff down deep at temperatures and pressures where rocks melt.

In buying diamonds, all 4 Cs are mentioned, but it should be stressed that when the price seems less than warranted by the clarity and color, a poor cut may be causing a dull, lifeless appearance, thereby reducing the value of the stone. The consumer should also be alerted to the possibility of filled stones. These are very minor points and do not detract from the book in the least.

This is a most welcome book. It is well written, informative and the photographs are excellent. It should give great pleasure to both the layman and professional alike, and should be in the jewelry store as well as the gemologist's library.

J. B. Tavernier
Senior Reviewer

Anna Miller's Master Valuer Program

* * *

Part III Antique Jewellery Valuation

An In-Depth Review

The Master Valuer Program is a jewellery appraisal course by highly acclaimed author, educator, and master valuer, Anna M. Miller, G.G. This review pertains to that portion of her 30 chapter correspondence course which covers antique jewellery valuation. The initial presentation of this section on antique jewellery begins with the appraiser's methodology for determining valuation. Helpful definitions are provided concerning what is an antique, an heirloom, a piece of period jewellery, and a collectible. The antique jewellery course consists of 10 separate lessons, and I will briefly highlight several of them.

The first lesson deals with the history of antique jewellery and its nomenclature. This history is covered in rich paragraphs, chock-full of information about the evolution of jewellery, from the earliest times through the centuries (Paleolithic, ancient world, dark ages, middle ages, 16th and 17th century, and French Revolution), and ranging across a wide variety of cultures (such as European, East Asian and American Indian). The glossary of terms for antique and estate jewellery is delightfully complete, with additional glossaries listed by topic and supplemented by references. The questions posed by Ms. Miller for self-study are clear, and the written material and references given provide more than adequate answers.

(Continued on page 7)

Spot Readings

Master Valuer Program

(Continued from page 6)

The lesson on Circa Dating Jewellery is presented in a well organized and highly readable fashion. though designed as a program for gemologists who are not specialists in antique jewellery, this section offers advice which even experienced appraisers will find illuminating. The lesson dealing with required Information provides a hands-on, practical, step-by-step approach to procedure, from filling out the appraisal worksheet, and elements to consider in antique evaluation, to the actual writing of a model antique jewellery appraisal report.

The lesson on Colored Gemstones in Antique Jewellery contains fundamental information on what stones should and should not be found in antique jewellery. Such knowledge is vital, not only for detecting fraud, but also for developing real insight into valuation in situations where an original gemstone may have been replaced. A special treat in this chapter is a brief narrative on the history and evaluation of cameos, a subject in which the author has special expertise.

In A.D. 77, the Roman historian Pliny the Elder wrote, "To tell the truth, there is no fraud or deceit in the world which yields greater gain and profit than that of counterfeiting gems." In citing this quotation, Ms. Miller points out that the dangers posed by counterfeiters are just as real today. "We can add jewellery to Pliny the Elder's lament," she states. Ms. Miller's analysis focuses on the difficulties in separating reproductions from genuine period pieces. Her guidelines of what to watch for when examining antique and ostensibly antique jewellery make for an excellent narrative. Additionally, she discusses jewellery alterations and value, and reviving antique design for the creation of reproductions. Ms. Miller provides a list of many manufacturers who create modern "antique" jewellery; xerox illustrations are included. To conclude the lesson, Ms.

Miller presents an antique jewellery appraisal problem. It concerns an experienced gem and jewellery valuer who appraised a collection of fine, antique pieces. One of the items was a box that contained a supposed rare ruby and diamond Georgian parure, by the French designer Vever. Though the markings on the box were unclear, the valuer's faith in his own expertise led him to assert confidently that this was indeed the real thing, and he appraised it accordingly. a serious problem arose when the valuer subsequently discovered that the parure and its presentation box were, in fact, extremely clever replicas. What should he do under these circumstances? I leave you in the hands of Ms. Miller!

"To tell the truth, there is no fraud or deceit in the world which yields greater gain and profit than that of counterfeiting gems" - Pliny

In the lesson on Resources, Ms. Miller discusses the difficulties involved in learning how to become an antique jewellery valuer. Though somewhat abbreviated, the lists of antique center, dealers, shows, and auction houses provided constitute a useful resource guide. They afford the opportunity for the student valuer to see and handle antique jewellery. Hands-on experience in this area is not easy to come by, unless you actively pursue it. Ms. Miller also provides auction market information—another critical resource—and explains how best to use it. At the end of this lesson, she presents yet another case study appraisal problem, entitled "competency." The learning value to be gained from careful study of this case would be difficult to overstate; it should be carefully read and re-read.

The lesson on More Antique and Estate Items provides information on: mosaic and inlaid jewellery, florentine mosaic (called Pietra Dura), Georgian eye miniatures, Scottish pebble jewellery, hair jewellery, the Lavalier, Cannelille embellishment, antique chains, Indian jewellery, Chinese jewellery, and Japanese jewellery. Ms. Miller presents another case study appraisal problem concerning the inexperienced appraiser. This is very important reading!

The last lesson of the book is entitled "Evaluation Guides." A "how-to" approach is presented for evaluating an antique ring, antique earrings, an antique brooch, an antique bracelet, an antique pendant, and an antique chain. The evaluation methodology for each item is laid-out on a page, which lists with specificity how to evaluate all parts (the metal mountings, the gemstones, the gemstone settings, and metal embellishment and/or ornamentation). This is a treasure trove of information and know-how for the student of antique jewellery valuation. One of the last items in the lesson—one that I found to be especially helpful—was an appraisal report study. This is an actual report, made by an appraiser in 1993. Ms. Miller asks if the reader can find any error in procedure or methodology. A critique of the report is then provided. this is an excellent means of teaching what the report should contain and how it should be done. in fact, I would say that this last lesson delves into the true "nuts and bolts" of the antique jewellery appraisal report. It brings together all of the preceding lessons, illustrating how to achieve a viable and solid appraisal.

Throughout the lessons, Ms. Miller has provided many fine examples of antique jewellery. This is an important visual aid. My one criticism is the frequent poor quality of many of these photocopied examples of antique jewellery pieces, and this could be corrected in future versions.

This visual deficit deprives the reader of the wisdom of the traditional adage that "a picture is worth a thousand words." Despite this shortcoming, the lessons in this book were well organized, thoughtfully written and brimming with pertinent information. Ms. Miller writes in a clear and precise manner, not leaving any doubt in the reader's mind about what is being expressed. Her knowledge of antique jewellery valuation is extraordinary!

Harriet Field
Reviewer



Appraisal Study Group

By Tom Mangin

Our "Appraisal Study Group", as it is now officially named, has spent the last three months analyzing the Jewelers Vigilance Committee's (JVC) proposed "Uniform Standards of Insurance Documentation for Jewelers". Sounds exciting, doesn't it?

We found several areas of general agreement, such as who should or shouldn't sign the document, what limiting conditions should be included - what dates should be a part of the report, what nomenclature and statements of disinterest should be included. It was agreed that all documentation should be maintained on file for at least seven years.

JVC states that the actual sale price must be listed on any insurance document issued by the seller, and any discrepancy between the sale price and the appraised value must be explained. Several members of our group disagreed with that proposal, feeling it violated the confidentiality of the transaction.

The Appraisal Study Group felt that the most important part of any appraisal is a detailed description of the item. We also believe that, as a minimum, anyone doing appraisals should have demonstrated a proficiency in gemology, and have sufficient laboratory equipment to identify and evaluate diamonds and other gem materials. We also recommend that anyone evaluating colored gems should have their color vision tested.

The Appraisal Study Group is currently discussing methods of market research.

What is Cost vs. Price vs. Value? For the answers to these and other questions on the subject of jewelry appraising, you are invited to see if the Appraisal Study Group is for you! Our next meeting is August 22nd. Speak to Tom Mangin or Lorin Atkinson for details, at (703) 821-3344 and (703) 734-3831, respectively.



Frankly

Fake

By Carol
Scott



Fashion jewelry is glamorous! The stars wear it, the movies use it, and ordinary people love to wear it.

The 20's through the 50's is mentioned as the golden age of fashion jewelry. The criteria for fashion jewelry is the same as that of the top jewelry houses, quality, workmanship and design.

The term, "Fashion Jewelry", is thought to have originated with Coco Chanel. Chanel contracted with some of the finest artists of the day to design jewelry for her fashions. Dali was one, as was Paul Iribe, a designer for Cartier. (*Incidentally, Iribe was also her lover!*). So much for the word, "fashion"!

How was the term, "Costume Jewelry" born? It was said to have come about in the 1920's. At that time, William Hobe was in partnership with a firm making beaded stage costumes. Zeigfeld came and asked him to make expensive looking jewelry for his costumes, thus, a term is born!

Vintage fashion jewelry has come of age. A collection toured the United States, and major auction houses have discovered it. Very high prices have been fetched for fashion jewelry, depending on who may have owned or designed it.

Ed. Note: If the subject of Fashion Jewelry intrigues you, please let us know - This is the tip of the iceberg, and Carol would be happy to expound in future articles on the subject, or answer your questions on the world of Fashion Jewelry.

"Let us not be too particular. It is better to have old second-hand diamonds than none at all."

Mark Twain

Recipe Corner

* * *

- DIAMONDS - Just Add Water!



Supercritical water that is !!! I recently came across US Patent 5,417,953, dated May 23, 1995, that describes a process and an apparatus for synthesizing diamonds.

Supercritical water is described as having pressure of at least 218 atmospheres and temperature of at least 374 centigrade. The apparatus combines two components together produce the diamonds.

1. The supercritical water - This creates the high temperatures and pressures needed for synthesis.

2. A carbon source, such as graphite, charcoal, coal, alcohol, methanes or acetylene.

This method produces diamonds that are cubic in structure. The advantage of this method over previous methods is said to be an ability to create single crystal diamonds using inexpensive abundant raw materials.

The inventor of this patent is Mark A. Cappelli of Leland Stanford Junior University, Stanford, CA.

So the next time you drink that glass of water, you may have a greater appreciation for this humble substance!

Surbhi Pandya.



"Our special? Why, Diamonds in Supercritical water, of course!"

ASA Conference Denver '95

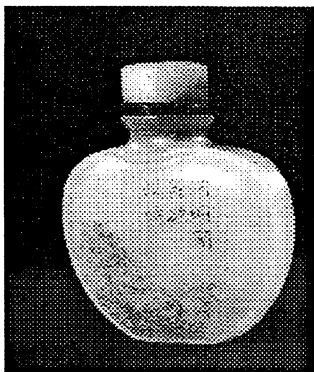
By Martin Fuller

The mile high city was host to the American Society of Appraisers annual conference in June. Several members of our chapter were present - including Bob Hoskins, and Maurisa Payne, who recently received her Master Gemologist Appraiser certification (*Congratulations!*).

It was a pleasure also to see Mr. Ed O'Rourke of Bethesda, in Denver. Sometimes you just have to go away to see some of your local colleagues! Half the pleasure of these educational conferences is the opportunity they afford to commiserate.

The conference, as most offered both highlights and lowlights - it was more often faster to travel nine flights via the exit stairwell than wait for the elevator at the Adam-Mark hotel.

One of the program highlights was a hands-on Jade Quality Grading seminar with Denverite Don Kay of Mason-Kay. So informative was this program, that those of us who attended petitioned the board of officers, and "*Voila*", we are going to have Don Kay here in Washington as a guest speaker on November 16th.



A Fred Ward Photo
Jadeite Snuff Bottle

Las Vegas

Dog Days
in the
Desert
* * *

They don't know what hot is in Vegas. Sure, it was 106 in the shade, but that's DRY-HEAT!!!! Get those western wimps back East, and we'll show 'em some real heat. They say those pioneers were tough, but they were just trying to escape the humidity!

Actually, they weren't alone. The Vegas show was crowded! The size of this show has increased at such a pace, that it is no wonder it is suffering growing pains.

Our sources have informed us that this show is gaining in quality and popularity over the July JA show - which incidentally had no diamond bourse this year (that's about 700 vendors that chose NOT to participate). The colored stone dealers moved upstairs, so the show was essentially on one level.

- Editor

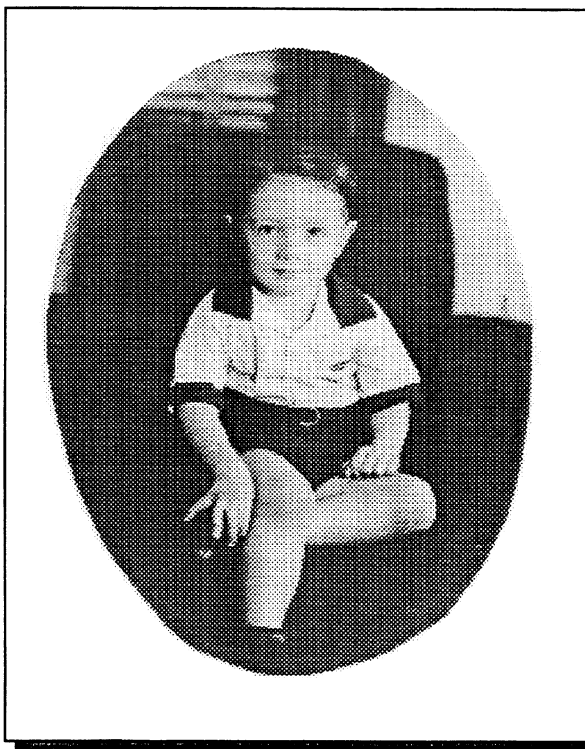
AN AUGUST MYSTERY!

Last issue, you remember the photo, "A Boy and His Fish"? Well, it didn't take *Ira & Davia Kramer* very long to figure that was none other than Fred Ward catching dinner at the tender young age of 3! Congratulations Ira & Davia!!!

Now, a new cherub graces our page, and the challenge is the same. Guess which member of the Alumni is pictured, and thanks to Fred, you will receive a limited, Russian language version of his book, "DIAMONDS", which was specially commissioned by DeBeers, and contains many photos not found in the English language version.

Send your entry to the editor. One guess per person. One winner is chosen from the correct guesses. Send NO MONEY. This time we have a rare book as a prize! Entries must be received by August 31st.

Good Luck!



New Tools

"Gemology Tools"

MS-DOS Version 1.1

by William Wise G.G.

Cost: \$95.00

Available from GIA Bookstore

This program is arranged with four basic menu options:

- 1) The Options Menu;
- 2) The Tools Menu;
- 3) The Utilities Menu;
- 4) Data Charts.

In each of these menus are sub-menus which have specific purpose. For instance, the "Tools" menu has the following options: Round Diamond Cut Grading, Diamond Weight Estimator, Colored Stone Weight Estimator, Akoya Pearl Grader, Gemstone Quick Reference.

In each of these options, the program asks for the blanks to be filled in and will produce the final outcome (diamond weight, color stone weight, cut grade, etc.). The process is quick and relatively painless, as the computer asks what information it needs to solve the problem.

The program also has quite a few charts. The "Gemstone Quick Reference" found on the tools menu is reminiscent of the "A" and "B" charts, but with a lot more information, such as "Treatments", reactions to various jewelry procedures (steaming, setting, ultrasonic, etc.). and other useful information. The "Baguette Weight Chart" is very handy, listing both straight and tapered baguette weight estimates.

The only controversial item in the program is assigning cut grades. The "Round Diamond Cut Grading" option is

based on a percentage scale which when calculated gives a final score of a number between 0-10. The example given in the users guide shows the measurements of a diamond which has a score of 7.4-Very Good. With all the charts leaning to the Class Cut systems (Class I-IV with "A-B" subgroups), this option puts another angle on the debate. The users guide does state, however, that if a consensus on cut grading is set, upgrade versions of this module will reflect the new consensus.

This program is very easy to use. It was no problem shifting between menus. Relatively in-experienced computer users will not have a hard time with this one. The users guide does state that it runs with windows, although rumor has it that a windows specific version will be available soon.

Gary Gates, Reviewer
(Bill's kid brother)



Gem Screen

I've had several opportunities of late to speak with Mr. Lance Painter of Ft. Collins, Colorado, regarding a new product he is marketing through Kassoy, and I feel this, or a system like this, may be the future direction of jewelry photography.

His system is known as "GEMSCREEN", and it comes in three versions. The Microsight 1500 unit contains a high resolution color camera and the adapting equipment to fit your gemscope.

This basic unit allows one to capture a video image through a gemscope. Next, what do you do with this image? You can run it into a color TV, or a combo TV/VCR, and/or into a video printer, to obtain a hard copy. The benefits are no more botched photos, because what you see is what you get. The drawbacks include the need to spend money on the accessory equipment, which bring the price of a package including the camera, cables, adapters, video printer, and TV/VCR to \$3,595.00.

The Micromaster 2020 model uses a much smaller, very sophisticated, video camera which zooms from 20x to 60x.. This particular unit does not require a gemscope due to its magnification power. This benefit of magnification has a minor drawback in that large objects cannot be fully observed by this lens. The 2020 camera, cables, and dark-field illuminator sell for \$3,845.00, and total \$5,395.00 when you include the video printer and TV/VCR.

Finally, the Video Pro 2500 consists of a high-tech micro-camera head (25 grams!), with its control unit, cables and illuminators costing \$3,145.00. With the TV/VCR and video printer its \$4,695.00.

The 2020 and 2500 units can be used with computers to store the images. The printer can put up to 16 images on one sheet of film, saving materials.

For more information including a free demonstration video, call Lance at 1-800-545-5869



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(301) 770-0100

As of press time, we were unable to confirm reports as to whether Robin Elkin or Israel Heller were still seeking qualified sales help. Part of the membership benefits are free help wanted ads in the newsletter. The classified ads have a nominal fee. -Ed.

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to our chapter members!*



*"Aw right, Buddy, where'd ya
get that tie?"*

Nuggets from the Past

* * *

By Lorin Atkinson

There were no nuggets from the past for this issue. Ten years ago we didn't have meetings in the summer. Ten years from now, we'll have plenty to tell you.

Stay Tuned!

Mark Your Calendar!

* * *

A number of very interesting events are scheduled for your future. This is formal notice for you to forget about those items which were scheduled for your past.

August 26th - The Gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society of D.C., Inc. presents their 3rd Annual Lecture Series at the New Carrollton Ramada Hotel. Advanced

registration is recommended for this one, which is titled, "Our Area Museums and Their Collections", featuring curators, conservators and assistant directors from some of the areas finest museums and galleries, such as the Smithsonian, Walters Art Gallery, Dumbarton Oaks, Freer Gallery, Delaware Museum of Natural History, etc. Contact Helen Serras for details at (301) 230-0145.

September 19th - Gary Bowersox, the world traveler and renown expert on Afghan gemstones will be our guest lecturer. I hope he comes in costume!

September 17-20th - The National Association of Jewelry Appraisers presents its Mid-West Educational Conference in Chicago. The focus of the conference will be appraisals from start to finish; a hands-on experience. For a brochure or further information, call Jim Jolliff at (301) 261-8270.

The Critical Angle

by Martin Fuller

This newsletter was a cooperative effort. It symbolizes a new direction the board is taking to bring more members into a more active role within our chapter.

We have observed the best of the G.I.A. alumni groups around the country, and it is clear that those with organized committees are the most successful at meeting their members needs.

Currently we need all the assistance we can get for the Christmas Auction Donation Committee, as December is just around the bend. Thanks in advance for your help.

Best regards,

- Martin

The District of Gemology

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Up-Coming Events * Robert Weldon of JCK!
