



The District of Gemology

Volume 4 Issue 4

Fall 1997

Holiday Party & Auction

Silent Auction 6:30PM - Dinner 7:30PM

Saturday, December 6th, 1997

By Bobby Mann

The Washington D.C. Chapter of the Gemological Institute of America Alumni Association will be holding our annual fund raising auction on December 6, 1997. Come and enjoy a relaxing evening with your friends and colleagues at Pulcinella Ristorante, 6852 Old Dominion Drive, McLean, VA 22101. You can help make this auction a success. WANTED: Party goers, auction donations, auction committee members, and auction bidders. Socialize, network, and have fun at one of the most interesting meetings of the year.

Support your chapter by making bids at the auction. This is our most important fund raiser of the year. The more successful this auction is the better off our chapter will be in 1998. Auction donations can be sent to Bobby Mann at 4111 Rocky Mount Drive, Temple Hills, MD 20748. You may also bring donations to the party on December 6th. All donors will be acknowledged at the auction and in our award winning newsletter or they may remain anonymous.



Chapter vice president and program chairperson Michele Zabel introduces Cynthia Marcusson at the November meeting. Story on page 3.

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President's Letter

By Fred Ward

It is with nostalgia and many happy memories that I write my last President's Letter. The last four years (two as vice president and program chairman and two as president) have been satisfying insofar as this chapter is concerned. I believe genuine progress was made and that the current position of this chapter financially, professionally, and culturally is unsurpassed.

Many of you will remember that my association with the chapter began a decade ago when I was repeatedly invited to deliver slide talks about the gems I was covering for NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC. After I received my GG, this chapter generously made me a lifetime member and later asked if I would serve as an officer. I thought my unique global gemological background and my friendship with a large number of prominent players in the gem trade would serve the chapter well. And so they have.

When my two-year term as vice president and program chairman began in 1994, the chapter had 30 members and less than \$200 in the bank. Through the efforts of several good people and the decision to hold 12 meetings a year, 11 with a nationally- or internationally-known speaker, paid off handsomely with immediate results. Membership rose instantly and steadily until now we have 128 members and a treasury of several thousand dollars, which is what pays for our meeting room fees and for travel expenses for our speakers. In four years we moved from being just another GIA chapter to the most active GIA chapter in the world.

(Continued on page 2)

President's Letter

(Continued from page 1)

Accomplishing this took teamwork. Bobby Mann was president in 1994 and 1995. Bobby realized our potential and worked tirelessly to improve the chapter in size and quality. His incredible input toward making the holiday auction the success it is today is responsible for funding the speakers we enjoy each month. It would not have mattered who I wanted to invite if the chapter did not have the money to pay their way here. We had no newsletter when Marty Fuller offered to start one. Only three years later, with Bill Wise as editor, we won the prize for publishing the best GIA newsletter in the world.

No list of devoted chapter members would be complete without putting Michele Zabel at the top of the list. Without fanfare or credit she has worked countless selfless hours doing tasks that really should have been shouldered by others. She actually defined the secretary's job, getting us into compliance with GIA's many arcane and time-consuming rules for the first time. She created our computerized mailing and membership lists, personally printed and bound our first chapter address book, and she wrote and mailed the monthly chapter announcements on time for the first time in history. When she moved up to vice president, she spent yet more hours bringing a new secretary up to speed. And when he quit, she repeated the task for another secretary. And all the while she worked days and nights setting

up the 22 speakers and programs for her two-year tenure, chapter members erroneously thought I was still creating our monthly programs. Not so. Michele richly deserved being named Regional Member of the Year two years ago in Tucson. I assure you she will be missed as an officer of this chapter.

My hopes and wishes for this chapter are infinite. We have only tapped the surface of our potential as a professional organization to serve the various aspects of the gem trade in the Washington area.

My hopes and wishes for this chapter are infinite. We have only tapped the surface of our potential as a professional organization to serve the various aspects of the gem trade in the Washington area. The up-side is obvious. Down-side risks are also apparent. I see two. I have met twice recently with GIA officials about the future of what has been called the Alumni Association. Big changes are in the works and it remains to be clarified which direction GIA will move in relation to dealing with alumni. It is the responsibility of the new officers to deal with and inform GIA regularly what position this chapter takes on changes in the organization.

My second concern is more local. I believe we are moving through the first wave of members, the ones who were here from the beginning and who have served loyally for years. The makeup and face of the chapter have changed. When we went through the nomination process for new officers recently it was amazing to see the same names coming up again. The chapter has fallen into a division: one side has the same old members who devote hours and hours to making the chapter work; and there is a much larger group of spectators who come to be entertained and who never volunteer for any job. That barely works under the best conditions. But as the older members tire of serving continuously, there are no replacements. My greatest fear now is that the chapter will stop growing and thriving and being vital and interesting. Unless some spark ignites the majority of the membership to get involved and help, the chapter will decline.

Finally, I end on a personal note. For the past three years much or even most of my time has been consumed by what is now known as the miserable emerald case. I have tried very hard to keep it and my concerns about it completely separated from the chapter. I greatly appreciate the many expressions of support and help from the vast majority of the chapter. I wish I had had the same promised support from GIA when I needed it most. Those who know me know my integrity and realize the truth about this ridiculous case. The misery will not last forever, and it has been very gratifying to know how many friends I have here. Thank you.



District of Gemology Newsletter Advertising Rates

Rates are per issue. The District of Gemology is published four times a year. Call Bill Wise at (301)843-5617. Next submission deadline: January 15.

Full Page Ad	\$175.00
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Quarter Page Ad	\$ 50.00
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Board of Directors - Contact Phone Numbers

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Secretary - John Lees.....	(540) 882-4742
Treasurer - Tom Mangan.....	(703) 780-0317
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E-Mail Newsletter Items to:.....	ubwise@erols.com

Selling Color

An Evening with Cynthia Renée

by Fred Ward

It was a dark and stormy night.

I have always wanted to begin an article or book with that line. And it never worked just right until Thursday, November 13, when autumn took a sudden turn toward winter and blew in a cold rain that brought traffic to a crawl and delayed our chapter meeting half an hour. We had ourselves a dark and stormy night.

Our speaker, Cynthia Marcusson (whose company is called Cynthia Renée) rose to the occasion and kept the every increasing audience enthralled with her non-stop enthusiasm and insights into selling colored gemstones. By the time we announced election results and

finished our short business meeting, Cynthia was hopping to get on with her program, and the slightly damp but energized crowd was excited to begin.

Cynthia glided right into the mission... convincing customers, men and women, to buy that first nice colored gemstone, and then keeping them coming back for a collection of gems. Her concept of a collection is built around her Five Color Palette program. Much like the Color Me Beautiful four-season concept, Cynthia's Five Palettes place people and their clothes into broad categories. Then she shows customers gems that complement and contrast with those colors.

She calls her Palettes: Vineyard, Icy Pastels, Bright Lights, Tropic Gem, and Serengeti. Cynthia's slide show, a professional cut above the typical show we see,

features travel scenes, models, and wonderful gem photographs by Robert Weldon to show how nature, fashion, and gems can blend into an integrated whole.

Cynthia cleverly noted that people are natural collectors. So she either gives or sells gem storage cases to her customers. But the jewelry boxes are never full. In fact they may hold just one ring or one pair of earrings. The



Cynthia Marcusson chats with chapter members before her November 13 talk.

idea is that people hate to see empty spaces in a case. So this silent selling tool keeps bringing customers back for more jewelry until all the empty slots are full.

Cynthia was delightful, a bundle of energy, and a generous and successful proponent of colored gems. Everyone who braved the weather found the evening to be a compelling sales experience.



Cynthia and Gaylyn Sanderson discuss the proper way to hitch.



Cynthia shows some of her beautifully cut colored gemstones to Cathy Gaber and Pebbie Barnes.

October Speaker

President Ward on Burmese Jade

By Davia Kramer

On October 23, we had the privilege of having our own "Presidente", Fred Ward, as our speaker. Instead of Fred appearing in his trademark Hawaiian shirt, we saw a new facet of his personality. Fred lectured in his traditional Burmese outfit - camouflage



For the October, 1997 meeting, president Fred Ward gave an illustrated talk on his recent tour of Burma's jadeite mines. He spoke while wearing his Burma outfit, a *longyi* camouflage hat and boots.

sneakers and hat, as well as a "longyi", basically a skirt! What a guy!! He took us with him on a tour to the jade mines of upper Burma. This is a remote area where Burma comes to a point with Bengal to the west, Tibet to the north and China to the east. This is not somewhere you would like to go on vacation. This area of Burma has two seasons, monsoon and the other.

A small "window" is often polished on the boulder so the dealers can try to determine the quality of the entire piece and decide what to pay. This is a risky business.

During monsoon season the mud becomes up deep and you need an elephant to pull your car or cart out of the mud. During the other season, when Fred went to visit everything is dusty. There are no paved roads, only tracks. The conditions for living and mining are primitive (at least by our standards).



Instead of the traditional *Above Washington* book that the chapter gives to speakers, Fred received champagne.

With the aid of Fred's slides we visited Hpakan (pronounced with a silent H), which is in the middle of a huge jade mining area. The Uru river runs through the Hpakan area and jade boulders can be found in the river bed. Most of the jade is in alluvial deposits. The largest mine, on the edge of Hpakan, employs about 10,000 workers a day. From his slides, we saw the backbreaking work it takes to mine the jade boulders

and carry them out. A small "window" is often polished on the boulder so the dealers can try to determine the quality of the entire piece and decide what to pay. This is a risky business.

Burma is unusual in that it has both primary and alluvial jade deposits. Fred showed us the primary deposits in Tawmaw. The mines here go up to 100 feet underground. The jade that is mined is in large pieces with jagged edges. These pieces of jade are large chunks instead of the boulders that are common to the alluvial deposits.

Fred had various samples for us to examine after the lecture. He had examples of lavender jade, moss in snow, low quality and cabochons of gray jade that were dipped in plastic. He purchased these cabs for \$1 each in a street market in Mandalay. As we



Fred points out jadeite colors from the chart in his book.

have all come to expect, another wonderful speaker on an interesting topic.



A quiet after-meeting dinner in the hotel's rooftop restaurant included Bobby Mann, Helen and Andy Herman, and chapter secretary John Lees.

Appraisal Society Meets Monthly

By Ron Talley

The Washington Society of Jewelry Appraisers met at Mangan Jewelers in McLean VA on October 12th, 1997. The lead off discussion focused on various appraisal forms and minimum standards of report writing as recommended by various appraisal associations. This led into a discussion on the sections of the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice that addresses appraisals on personal property.

Professional jewelry appraisers, wishing to grow in knowledge and provide their clients with a quality product and service, should plan to attend the next meeting. This meeting will be held at the same location on November 18, 1997 at 7:30 PM.

The November topic will be on Point of Sale Reports.

With the Christmas season upon us there will not be a meeting held in December. Dates for the upcoming year have not yet been announced.

For more information call Ron Talley at (301)870-9593.





Some of the spectacular diamonds on display in Smithsonian's newly opened gem hall. Our chapter had a private conducted before-hours tour of the completely renovated hall on Halloween. Among the above beauties are the *Blue Heart Diamond*, a huge cognac-colored centerstone, and the intense yellow *Shepherd Diamond*.



Master Valuer Program Graduates 50 Korean Students

Seoul, South Korea - The Master Valuer Program recently graduated the first class of 50 Registered Master Valuers with grand ceremonies in Seoul, South Korea. Master Valuer Korea is administered by the Korean Institute of Gemmology as a six-month residence program. The second semester is now in progress. Pictured with members of the first graduating class is the International Director of the program Anna M. Miller, front center, Kim Sang-Ki, Education Director of the MV Korea program, right, and Nai Jun Yu, president of the Master Valuer Association of Korea, left. The Master Valuer course, an internationally acclaimed gems and jewelry appraising program, will also be available at the Tucson Gem Show February 5, 6, and 7, 1998. For more information call or fax Anna Miller at (281)485-1606.

Lynn Sauls, First Lorin Atkinson Scholarship Award Winner, Reponds

Thanks to all the GIA alumni members, particularly those on the Board, who considered and granted the first Lorin Atkinson Scholarship award to me for study at GIA. As was stated in the last issue of the District of Gemology newsletter, I plan to attend the GIA diamond grading course the next time the GIA extension course comes to town.

I am thrilled to have the opportunity to study and learn at the world's foremost Institute in the gem and jewelry trade.

I will use the scholarship award wisely by employing the knowledge I acquire to purchase natural gem stones in Asia with which I'll make jewelry that I will sell to friends and family. I plan to develop this delightful avocation into a profitable, small business in a few years. Thank you again for providing the resources I needed to continue studying in order to make my dreams come true.

With best regards, Lynn Sauls



Lynn Sauls, will use the \$500 scholarship toward GIA's Diamonds course.

Jewelry On The Internet

By Davia Kramer

Here are some internet addresses that I have accumulated. I have not been to all of them. If anyone has additional website information please let us know.

An Internet Directory On the World Wide Web:

Watch Information:

bogoff.com	listings of pocket watches and wristwatches for sale
watchweb.com	listings of pocket watches and wristwatches for sale
watchnet.com	listings of pocket watches and wristwatches for sale
worldwidewatches.com	
antiquehorology.com	
swisstime.ch	represents the Swiss watch industry
pocketwatches.com	USA vintage watches online auction and sales

Jewelry Organizations:

gemstone.org	International Colored Stone Assn- new discoveries etc
isa-appraisers.org	ISA
appraisers.org	ASA
ags.org	American Gem Society
goldinstitute.com	
aigs.co.th	AIGS lab in Thailand also
jtc.co.th	
tradeshop.com	Associate Jeweler's Tradeshop
jewelers.org	Jewelers of America
deepcove.com/cig.	Canadian Institute of Gem-molgy

Watch Companies:

delma.ch	Profiles of Delma, Rialto & Klondike watches, company history & news
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Jewelry Companies:

medial.hy-pernet.com/perret.html	Etienne Perret
opal-tibara.com	
zela-com.com/~opals/welcome.html	Virginia Grant of Lightning Ridge Opals
steinmetz-us.com	diamond inventory - must sign up for password
da-costa.com	
gessweinco.com	Paul H. Gesswein Co.
apactool.com	
riogrande.com	Rio Grande
gembirds.com	
culturedpearls.com	Internat'l Cultured Pearls of the Orient, consumer education on pearls
golaybuchel.com	Golay Buchel
estatejewelry.com	The Registry Ltd. (need a password)

Magazines:

jewelry-search.com	(Nat'l Jeweler for consumers)
diamondsinfo.com	Mazal U Bracha

Auction House:

antiquorum.com

Miscellaneous: do not use WWW.

jck.polygon.net	JCK magazine
ja.polygon.net	Jewelers of America
aga.polygon.net	Accredited Gemologist Assoc.
jsa.polygon.net	JSA Anti-Crime Website
mjsa.polygon.net	MJSA
agta.polygon.net	AGTA
jic.polygon.net	JIC
ijo.polygon.net	IJO
rjo.polygon.net	RJO

September Speaker

Master Gem Carver

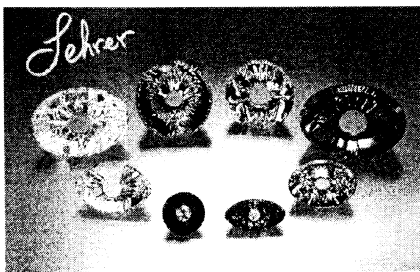
Glenn Lehrer

By Howard Milliren

Our speaker for September 23, 1997 was world renowned gem carver Glenn Lehrer. Glenn hails from San Raphael, California. He described his metamorphosis from painter to gem carver, and the necessity to go back to school for more scientific education including mineralogy, crystallography and gemology. Glenn learned the techniques of gem carving from the German carvers in Idar-Oberstein. He tries to put more imagination into his work. Many of Glenn's carvings have been featured on national magazine covers. One



Glenn Lehrer at the September 1997 meeting.



Sapphires carved in his new shape.

of his largest works is a five foot carving, Bahia, the piece which now hangs in the new GIA building in Carlsbad, California. He pointed out that for about two weeks before the equinox and two weeks after, the light came through the window in the GIA building which caused rainbow effects to be cast on the walls and floor of the building.

Although still learning, Glenn says it has taken him 17 years to learn and perfect his craft. These days he wants to do unique works. He said that when he first looks at a rock he really doesn't visualize what it might be carved into. He works with it and as he cleans it up so as to make the clear material visible he then starts working on it and sort of feels his way until something sort of "jumps out" at him as the way to carve it.

Glenn showed us slides of his work shop and the very large

saws, laps, and drills which are necessary to work with the huge pieces of rough. He showed slides of several HUGE rocks he had worked with. There is no doubt that he is gifted in figuring out what to carve out of the rough, and he shows great skill in his carving. While he is not primarily a goldsmith, he is skilled enough in the gold working field to augment and decorate his stone carvings.

It is difficult to put on paper the feeling that one got from looking at the slides and hearing his presentation. It is obvious that Glenn is very talented and that he is inventive in designing the end products from the stones. Several of the slides were truly magnificent and were works of art, but more of the pieces were "inventive" enough to cause trouble visualizing what he explained them to be. One can certainly appreciate and understand the amount of effort that he put into these creations. This was one of the most interesting talks the chapter has put on.



Glenn Lehrer at the September 1997 meeting. Glenn and chapter president Fred Ward discuss details of his talk. Glenn is one of the world's outstanding gem carvers.



Glenn Lehrer and chapter treasurer Tom Mangan.



Some of Glenn's agate carvings.



Glenn shows some of his carvings to chapter members at the September meeting.

Also contributing to this article was Chapter Secretary John Lees.

Auction Rules Explained

You will be assigned a bidding number and given a bidding paddle at the registration desk. Use this number for both the Silent and Live Auctions.

The Silent Auction starts at 6:30PM. Bid as often as you like. All Auction items will be displayed on tables for your viewing. Each item will have a lot Number. There will be a card at each item showing the lot number, description of the item, retail value and the donor's name. Under this information there will be two columns for you silent auction bids. One column is for your bidding number and the other is for your silent auction bid.

The Silent Auction top bids will be the starting point for the Live Auction bids. If there are no Live Auction bids from the floor, the

item will be sold for the top silent auction bid.

Most values listed have been provided by the donors as estimates of retail value.

All sales are final.

Successful bidders pay for their items at the cashiers table before leaving. **Remember: Bid Like You Mean It!!**

Payment will be accepted in the form of cash, approved checks, or credit cards (Discover, Novus, Visa, MasterCard, and American Express).

This process proved successful last year and helped speed up the auction.

Thanking you in advance for your generosity, BOBBY MANN.



Lois Berger just heard about the night Secretary John Lees spent in the Fairfax pokey wearing nothing but his kilt.



The Critical Angle

By Martin Fuller

So another year passes. Great things have been accomplished and greater things await us. O.K., so some lesser things have been sprinkled amongst the greater, and even some awful stuff on rare occasion. But all in all, I'd say it's been good. Thanksgiving is upon us. Another fine board of officers has come to the end of two years of serious volunteerism for the benefit of the Washington area jewelry industry. And now the Christmas party and auction draw near. Time to celebrate our accomplishments and hunker down for the Christmas season.

The Christmas party on December 6th is in a new location, not far from last years', and it promises to be better than ever. In grand human tradition, exciting auction items are being donated in anticipation of the event, and you are encouraged strongly to reach into your creative recesses to find something wonderful for the auction, be it crafted from your own cleverness or by asking a generous vendor to support a worthy cause.

My sincere thanks goes out to the board members, Fred, Michele, Tom and John, who have given so generously of their time for the benefit of others. Organizations such as ours would not be conceivable without them. Thanks also to Bill

Wise, who has labored intensely over this newsletter through thick and thin, in sickness and in health. The newsletter is one of those jobs you have no idea what your getting into until you get to the deadline...and then you come to a new realization of the value of teamwork. Next year possibilities include the construction of a web-page which may be combined with the newsletter, for those who have come to prefer their news electronically. This could extend our subscription base and reduce some printing and postage costs. The future looks great! I would also like to thank the supporting cast, particularly the past officers who continue to give of their time by participating in the board meetings and events, helping to guide and grow the chapter. That would include Bobby Mann, soon to be president again! And Chuck Hyland, and Carolyn Chappell.

In final Thanksgiving, I would like to thank those of you who responded to my last Critical Angle article, "There but for the grace of God, go I". I received more concerned calls over that article than any I've written. It touched a strong cord, and it was meant to. But it was not meant to offend anyone in particular, and I apologize if it did.

Treasurer's Island

By Young Jim Hawkins
(as told by Long Tom Mangan)

"It's tougher than keeping a weather-eye open for a seafaring man with one leg", says Tom regarding his post as chapter treasurer. For two long years Tom has been keeper of the coin for the chapter, and under his watchful "weather-eye" the coffers have grown, aye, mightily.

With characteristic modesty, Tom considers the treasurers duties to be the least demanding of the four positions, requiring normally 10 to 12 hours a month. Anyone who runs a business knows the importance of maintaining the books, and not all are cut out for the task.

Tom records the chapters financial health on Quickbooks software, keeping track of yearly meeting fees, guest fees, auction results, as well as paying for speakers expenses, meeting rooms and managing the costs of printing and postage for our monthly announcements and newsletters. Tom also writes the checks to the GIA for the special classes our chapter arranges when the GIA is in town, such as synthetic diamonds and gemstone treatments.

Tom Mangan fills a valuable role in the health and wealth of our chapter. For two years he has volunteered for our betterment, and for our good fortune, he has volunteered for another two years. Thanks, Tom.

Ivory Society To Hold Lecture

June 7th, 1998, In Laurel Maryland

The International Ivory Society has announced a special three-hour lecture on the identification of ivory and ivory substitutes to be held on June 7, 1998 at the Best Western Maryland Inn, in Laurel, Maryland. This will be a repeat of the successful lecture provided as part of the National Conference held in September of 1997. This lecture

will be taught by Bobby Mann and Bob Weisblut. It will include a hands-on opportunity to become familiar with various ivory types including the rare Narwhal and Hornbill varieties. The price will be \$10 and reservations are limited. Call Bobby at (301)894-2016 or Bob at (301)649-4002 for further information.



P.S. Volunteers are the life-blood of any organization or community. What keeps Tom's physique stealthily lean and his mind razor sharp? He volunteers for the McLean Chamber of Commerce and several other organizations as well. There is a law of conservation of energy in the universe. Energy goes where it is needed, where it is called upon. It leaves where it is not wanted. Don't use it, you lose it. The more you give, the more you get. Don't forget to give because you love to give, not because of what you'll get.



ON BEING SECRETARY

Volunteering Has Its Rewards

By John Lees

Sometime late 1996 I received a phone call from Fred Ward. Fred approached me on filling in for the second half of the two-year term for Secretary of the DC Chapter of the GIA Alumni Association. He assured me it would be for one year only. I did my best to imitate a computerized voice of a Bell Atlantic recording and said "This number is no longer in service. Please consult your directory." Fred was too wily—he wasn't taken in for an instant. I told him I would sleep on the proposal and get back to him next day.

That night I thought over the position of secretary. I considered things I would rather be doing. A root-canal I had in 1985 came to mind. I talked this over with my wife, who's advice I greatly value. She said something about these organizations being all alike. Once they get you, they got you. Flypaper city. She had just finished a term as Senior Warden for her church and was still involved in various committees.

But then I thought of what I had gotten from the chapter. The meetings were all interesting and instructive, and I enjoyed the people who were active. So I told Fred the next day that I'd give it a shot, and he seemed greatly relieved. My immediate problem was my computer skills—really word processing skills, or lack thereof. I had recently inherited a Power Mac from my wife who had just upgraded to some kind of Mega Mac (my previous computer was a Tandy that I bought from Radio Shack about a decade ago for three cereal box tops). The machine I inherited was way over my head—I knew how to turn it on and that was about it. But I have to say, one of the advantages of

taking on the secretarial job was that it brought me up to speed on my new computer about umpteen times faster than might have happened otherwise.

So—what does the job entail? Well, there are certain routine things that need doing each month, and there are things that occur maybe several times a year, and there are once-a-year items.

Each month I reserve a room at the hotel for our meeting, and also reserve a room for our speaker if he or she is from out of town. I write the announcement for the meeting and take it, together with the address labels and envelopes, to the printer.

Fred approached me on filling in for Secretary of the Association. He assured me it would be for one year only. I did my best to imitate a computerized voice of a Bell Atlantic recording and said "This number is no longer in service. Please consult your directory."

They run the copies, stuff the envelopes and stick on the labels. I then pick up the stuffed envelopes, paying the printer (for which I am later reimbursed by Tom Mangan, our friendly treasurer), and mail them to those on the mailing list (about 360 people) one month before the meeting. I maintain the mailing list with all names, ad-

resses, and phone numbers, including fax numbers, and keep it updated. It is from this list that the address labels are created.

The secretary must send pertinent information to the speakers confirming: the topic; the exact time and location for the meeting; the room reservation; and reassurances that they will be reimbursed for their expenses.

I collect annual membership money, and at meetings, I keep track of those who have paid and collect \$10 from all others who come. I take minutes at each meeting and send a copy to the GIA, together with the announcement.

I collect membership forms at the beginning of the year with all the pertinent information (address and phone mainly) and keep these on file. And I must send out the letters once a year requesting that people send in these forms with their payment.

In addition, I take care of all the correspondence except that handled by the President and Vice President.

All in all, this probably takes several hours a week. When I started, I was putting in 7 or 8 hours because I was new to the job and I was new to the computer. Some things that I now handle in a routine way took maybe three or four tries before they came out right. I would say that I now average four or five hours a week—some weeks hardly any time, others more.

I have found as I worked into the job that I enjoy it. Why else sign up for another two years? Through the secretary's job I have gotten to know many more people in the chapter than I did before. So, two years from now, when Bobby calls and asks you to run for the secretary's position, don't just stare at your navel and mumble. Look him straight in the phone and say "By God, Sir, I'm your man (woman, child)!"



Wanted: Newsletter Editor

By Bill Wise

As 1997 draws to a close we are seeing a half changing of the guard in our alumni association. We will have a new president, Bobby Mann, and a new vice president, Davia Kramer. Tom Mangan, treasurer and John Lees, secretary will remain in their positions. For a number of reasons I must step down as newsletter editor. It has been a very interesting two years. When Fred Ward ~~twisted my arm~~ persuaded me to become the newsletter editor, I was overwhelmed at the seemingly daunting task. But it wasn't nearly as difficult as it turned out to be.

What does it take to be the newsletter editor? First of all it helps to be somewhat computer literate. But don't worry, if you're not quite literate you soon will be. Next you will need a

desktop publishing program. I use Microsoft Publisher because it is inexpensive and easy to use.

You will need to persuade people to write articles. When this newsletter won the GIA award for best newsletter last year, it wasn't because of the work I did on it. We won because of all the fine articles and photos. I don't have room to thank everyone who wrote a great article, but (at the risk of offending someone) some of the major contributors were Martin Fuller, Fred Ward, Lorin Atkinson, Bobby Mann, Anna Miller, Camille David, Cathy Gaber, Davia Kramer, and of course, J.B. Tavernier. When it came to photos, Fred Ward made my job very easy. He took the pictures, scanned them, and optimized them. All I had to do was size and insert them.

After the newsletter is pieced together you take it to the printer and they do the rest. If you have a flair for editing and enjoy puzzles, and you don't mind spending a few hours at your computer every three months, this job is for you!

Around Town

By Davia Kramer

"The Jewel and the Rose:

Art for Shah-Jahan" May 4, 97 - Feb 98
Sackler Gallery
202-357-2700
Free
(Taj Mahal emerald, 141 carats)

SMITHSONIAN ASSOCIATES

A Champagne Salute to the Opening of the Nat'l Gem Hall - lecture by Jeffrey Post, reception, private viewing of the Gem Hall

Wed., Jan. 21, 6 PM \$35.00

CODE: 1WO-328 202-357-3030

HILLWOOD MUSEUM

Jewels Extraordinaire - tour the Nat'l Gem Hall with Jeffrey Post.

Tues., Feb. 24, 10 AM - 12 Noon

\$12.00 202-686-8500

The District of Gemology

Washington, D.C. Chapter GIA Alumni Association
c/o Bill Wise

6108 Koala Court

Waldorf, MD 20603

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Bethesda MD 20817

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Martin Fuller * Bobby Mann
Davia Kramer * And Much More!**

