



The District of Gemology

Volume 7 Issue 1

Spring 2000

WE'RE NUMBER ONE!

D.C. Chapter Wins GIA Outstanding Chapter of the Year Award

Well, the truth is finally out. *We're Number One!!* The D.C. Chapter won the GIA Award for Outstanding Chapter of the Year for 1999. The presentation was on Friday, February 4th in Tucson at the GIA Awards Ceremony. Everybody from the Chapter who was in Tucson assembled in force to watch Davia Kramer accept the award on behalf of the D.C. Chapter. Our motley crew appears in the fine group mug shot on this page. Do you need to ask if we yelled and clapped and hooted and cheered? Nah, you don't need to ask. You could probably hear us all the way back here in D.C.

It's for sure we deserve it. We've had some outstanding leadership over the years and it shows in the progress we've made. We've quadrupled in size over just the past few years. We've awarded scholarships. We've held several specialized seminars and extension courses, both in conjunction with GIA and otherwise.

Last but not least, we throw a terrific, high-energy Annual Holiday Party and Fund Raising Auction every December where we eat, drink, make merry and then, under the inspiration and urging of our splendid auctioneers, Carolyn Chappell, Bobby Mann, and the newest addition to that talented troupe, Bruce Gaber, we bid for great stuff donated by generous supporters.

And oh yes, we have a really nifty newsletter. Indeed, we've won

Best Newsletter for the past three years. But we didn't win it this year. Seems the Taiwanese Chapter came in with a flossy-glossy book filled with color pix, and GIA was so blown away that they awarded them the prize for 1999. Of course, the whole thing was in *Chinese* which nobody at GIA could read -- but hey, those color pix were really pretty so who cares if you don't know what the heck the text says? (A few improper speculations have



GIA/D.C. In Serried Ranks Assembled

See Award, page 4

President's Letter by Carolyn Chappell



It is with great pleasure that I serve as President of our chapter for the next two years. What MAJOR CHANGES have occurred since I did this in 1986-87!! We have gone from the three speakers (one each quarter) plus a "Holiday Social" in the 4th quarter that GIA Alumni Association at Headquarters recommends to a wonderful format of ten or eleven outstanding nationally known speakers, our very own star-studded "Tucson Panel," and a killer Auction-Dinner Party for the holidays to raise our funds for the coming year. At which, I might add, we did quite well this year! Along the way, we can dot the calendar with a "before-hours" trip to the Smithsonian, other possible museum exhibits through the year, and some GIA classes to keep us up to date.

And just maybe, we'll all get to know each other a little bit better especially if each of you would come a little early, have coffee or tea and a cookie and introduce yourself to someone NEW and spend a few minutes getting to know them, so that next time you can call them by name!

We plan to put together a new directory this year, probably in the summer. Those of you who paid \$50.00 in advance for the meetings in 2000 have already given us the info we need for the directory. Those of you who haven't and would like to, need to get a form from Melanie Marts, our chapter Secretary, and join us. Our membership currently stands around 90 and we suspect that some of you out there got parted from your sign-up form! Please get one.

Kusam Malhotra, our Vice President, is working very hard to bring us new and interesting speakers. We hope that you will pass along any suggestions you have to any of us on the Board. This club is a forum for all of us to broaden our interests and knowledge. And participation is KEY. So --- get involved!! If you are tired of seeing the same faces make your own one of them!!! V-O-L-U-N-T-E-E-R!!!! We will find a place for you. We seem to have lots of members who just want to come and LISTEN each month but you know that it takes lots of help to make this all work. Don't be shy --- JUMP IN! This is YOUR club! Ideas are needed!!

I am so proud that the club won the GIA Alumni Association "1999 Outstanding Chapter of the Year" award, which was presented at the Tucson Show in February. Bobby Mann, our outgoing President, was a very big factor in making it all happen. Congratulations to all who worked so diligently!

In closing, let me say again that I look forward to our time together this next two years and I welcome your suggestions. We'll grow and get smarter together and who knows? We may even laugh a little and have some fun!

Carolyn Chappell



*Our Happy Newlyweds
Martin and Colette Fuller
1 January 2000*

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Speaking on what he knows and loves most, Campbell Bridges filled our January meeting to overflowing. Campbell is a man on a mission and he speaks of garnets (and other African gemstones) with passion and conviction. He punctuated his illustrated 90-minute slide talk with numerous observations about gem availability, rarity, colors and value.

Beginning by saying that the initial four precious gems (diamonds, emeralds, rubies and sapphires) probably gained that status because of the purity of their primary colors (or lack thereof with diamonds), he launched into a survey of color varieties available today. He noted



Sharing a joke with John Lees

that in the minds of dealers and consumers, Africa (where he lives and mines) has long been associated with diamonds rather than colored gemstones while colored stones were thought to come from Asia or South America. "Starting in the 1960s," Campbell said, "things began to change. East Africa, an area of breathtaking beauty, also became the source of exquisite gemstones, particularly tanzanite and tsavorite."

Rarely can any single person ever be credited with the discovery of a new gemstone but Bridges is such a person. In the late 1960s in Tanzania, he found, identified and assisted in the naming of the brilliant green grossularite garnet that is now known as "tsavorite." He took samples to Tiffany's, where he and representatives of the company discarded a number of possibilities until settling on a name associated with the

Campbell Bridges

A Tour of African Gems

by Fred Ward, GG

nearby Tsavo National Park, one of the world's great game reserves. With Tiffany's backing and promotional machine, tsavorite was introduced to the world.

Campbell, a geologist, continued his search and in 1970 he discovered tsavorite's second location, in southern Kenya, directly next to its namesake park. Others have found the gem in Madagascar but Campbell's Scorpion Mine complex remains the world's principal source for the gem. He is unabashed in his effusive praise of tsavorite which he describes as "simply the world's finest green gemstone. Emeralds are found in at least 14 locations, tsavorite in three. Tsavorite is much rarer, which should make it more valuable.

In color, brilliance, durability, rarity, beauty, intrinsic value and price, tsavorite easily beats emeralds. Only in public awareness is emerald ahead."

A series of gorgeous African garnet photographs followed, most taken by Bob Weldon, a former speaker at our chapter.



With Carolyn Chappell and Kusam Malhotra

They included such beauties as a spectacular orange Malaya garnet sample and several beautiful Tanzanian color-change garnets. Campbell noted that such color change is usually caused by up to one percent vanadium oxide.

Bridges also brought tanzanite, East Africa's other famous gem, to the USA by Bridges. He calls it the "yo-yo stone" because of its wild fluctuations in price and availability. Tanzanite is zoisite (usually found in grayish, steely blue, or brownish colors) that is heated to 450-600 degrees C. to transform it into a beautiful purplish-blue. Tiffany named it too and initially promoted it. Beginning as an almost worthless stone in Tan-



Carolyn, Campbell Bridges, Bruce and Cathy examine some gemstone beauties.

zania, it rode the wave of Tiffany's publicity until it reached \$300-\$2000/carat in 1981. As diamond prices soared and crashed, tanzanite plummeted to under \$500/carat. Then prices went back up, reaching \$750/carat until oversupply in 1995 once again brought prices down to \$150/carat. "Then came the home shopping TV channels," Campbell said, "and people suddenly knew about tanzanite. That was followed by terrible rains that flooded the mine and killed a number of miners. With no supply, prices doubled in a year and a half."

After his talk, Campbell showed several of his gemstones to our group and then he, his wife Judy and his daughter Laura joined fourteen chapter members for dinner at the top of the Westpark, ending another instructive and enjoyable evening.

Award, from page 1:

been made on that subject but they are not suitable for a family newsletter...)

One of the most important reasons we won Chapter of the Year has to have been that we are the only chapter that holds 11 monthly meetings a year. (Some chapters hold quarterly meetings but most either have no meetings at all or meet only once or twice a year.) Not only do we meet every month, but those meetings are marvelous occasions, bringing together



*If ya got it, flaunt it,
quoth Davia*

a lively, sociable bunch of people from every area of the gem and jewelry business along with a sizeable cohort of interested amateurs and guests, all of whom get to listen to a wonderful speaker talking about famous gems, glorious jewelry or some critical aspect of the modern marketplace -- all accompanied by mouth-watering slides to illustrate his or her talk.

The roster of speakers and topics from our 1999 meetings makes pretty impressive reading. In addition to our yearly panel on the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show, we had:



*Prez Carolyn Chappell holds
high the victory symbol*

- Erik Diamond speaking on "South Sea and Tahitian Pearls"
- Antoinette Matlins on "Simple Tools That Work in the High Tech World"
- The incomparable, irrepressible Gabi Tolowsky on "The Journey of Light in Diamonds"
- Our own Fred Ward on "The Fred Ward Emerald Case"
- Dr. Fred Ward on "The Fred Ward Emerald Case"
- The incomparable, irrepressible Gabi Tolowsky on "The Journey of Light in Diamonds"
- Martin Rapaport on the "Diamond Market"
- Kathryn Bonanno-Patrizzi on "The Extraordinary Art Deco Period by Cartier"
- Penny Jones Napier instructing us in "Research on the Internet"
- Dr. Jeffrey Post of the Smithsonian Institution on "The National Gem Collection: Science and Lore."

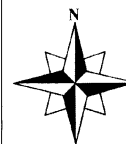
Talk about learning with pleasure!



*Davia, Richard Drucker
and Pat Ball*

If you're reading this and you're not a regular attendee, that list might just make you start wondering why you're missing these fascinating evenings -- particularly when you could come to them all for a mere \$50 in pre-paid yearly dues! That's definitely a bargain. And if you're already a regular attendee, then bring along a guest or two next time. Newcomers are always welcome and anybody even remotely interested in gems and jewelry will get a kick out of GIA/DC. After all, We're Number One!

***Around Town &
Around the Web***



By Davia Kramer

Gold of the Nomads: Scythian Treasures from the Ancient Ukraine – Walters Art Gallery, Baltimore, MD. March 7th to May 28th.

Topkapi: Jewels and Treasures of the Sultans – Corcoran Art Gallery, Washington, D.C. March 1-June 22.

On Time – permanent exhibit at the National Museum of American History featuring some 200 U.S.-made watches and clocks from the past two centuries, explores the rise of the American watch industry and examines how Americans have measured, used and thought about time over the past 300 years.

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On Thursday, 17 February 2000, we heard all about this year's Tucson Gem and Mineral Show from our panel of experts: Lois Berger, Toby Fitzkee, Martin Fuller, Bruce and Cathy Gaber, Patricia Syvrud and Fred Ward. To nobody's surprise, it was an evening dense with information and peppered with laughter.

Fred Ward began the discussion by remarking that while it was a fine show, it didn't have much that was really brand new. We've gotten in habit of expecting so much from Tucson that it's almost impossible for it to live up to our expectations. He noted some interesting California grey jadeite but the so-called Tucson "blue nephrite" was "just a rock." The Nevada "ghost jade" was pretty and chatoyant, but just what it really was, was unclear.

The Chinese are producing round pearls so large that from a distance, they look like South Seas. There was no disclosure as to how they are made. Fred thinks these are nucleated using old pearls because pearls cannot remain round at this size after two years in the water. The Chinese are saying these pearls are tissue nucleated and that they remain round for 7-9 years in the water but nobody believes it. Cut them open and you only see "tree-ring" marks which would be the case if old pearl was the nucleation.

Martin Fuller was up next, noting that his research for the Guide didn't reveal any big changes in prices. The biggest interest was Chinese freshwater pearls. Emerald prices are beginning to come back, though. Meanwhile, the Smithsonian Gem & Mineral Collection has its eye on a petrified log about 3' long, completely petrified with opal, in six sections that fit together perfectly. A \$35,000 donation would be needed. Any takers?

Lois Berger gave a thorough rundown on pearls in Tucson. She's put together a report, including dealers, that you can get from her if you want a copy. She noted that the lower end

Tucson 2000 Panel

of the Chinese pearl market has simply disappeared. The dealers aren't bothering any longer with small stuff like 2-4mm rice, button or corn, and if they did, it was obviously old merchandise. It doesn't pay to put anything in the water to get a small pearl, so although the quality was not always the best, almost everything was larger pearls.

Both she and Fred spoke of the startlingly high luster displayed on many pearls this year. Nobody could figure out how it was achieved. It was suggested that high energy bombardment of the surface would make it possible to analyze the pattern of material blasted off and if an organic material like epoxy or resin or wax had been used on the surface, you could analyze it. Fred noted that any good lab with university grade equipment could answer this question quickly but the gem trade won't do it because it against their interests to do so.

Bruce Gaber then talked about minerals at Tucson, saying that while there wasn't much new, there was something for everybody there. The chief difference from earlier years was that more dealers were keystoneing or agreeing to do so. Among the minerals he specifically mentioned

were sceptred amethyst from Paraiba. Malawi twinned amethyst scepter, Chinese pyromorphites, some extremely pale blue fluorites from Spain, hematite from Iran, iridescent Smithsonite from Mexico that looks very much like opal, and a beautiful deep purple amethyst coming out of Bolivia. The hot news in fluorite is "English Rodgerly Mine, Frosterly, County Durham which are so fluorescent that they glow blue in the sunlight.

Toby Fitzkee noted that jade is being treated extremely skillfully to make it look older; four pieces shown to a group of experts for age identification fooled everyone there. Lots of the lighter goods available in tanzanite. He also mentioned a cat's eye peridot. It was almost a fluke; the cat's eye was revealed as a result of the way it was cut.

Finally, Patricia Syvrud reported on her first experience of Tucson. "I had three main impressions of Tucson," she said, "1) Wow. 2) Oh, my God! 3) Davia, Marty and Colette are really fun people to hang with!" Talking about the AGTA show, she said, "I had never in my life seen so many huge emeralds, rubies, etc. My question to you is, who buys this stuff?" She expressed surprise that there were no examples of the lesser known faceted gem material.

She stayed for the mineral show in the second week and noted that the difference was really striking. "It had a completely different feel. Gem dealers are very savvy business dealers. Mineral dealers are more like collectors at heart; they just love each piece."

Then she cracked us up with her tale of two Smithsonian curators who had come into town and headed for their favorite dealers. One dealer was Spanish and he didn't speak much English. Pat speaks Spanish, though, and in Spanish, he told her how tiring it was to speak English all day. "You must get tired enough to sleep well at night," she remarked. To which he responded, "With the lies I tell all day?? I don't sleep a wink!!"



*The Tucson Veterans:
Toby, Bruce, Lois and Fred*

Your faithful reporter recently attended a talk on the jewelry of Mount Vernon given by Lynne Loube to the Chevy Chase Women's Club. Eighteenth century America was not a wealthy society and so Martha Washington's jewels are undeniably a far cry from the glories of 18th century Europe. But placed in their historical context, they provide a fascinating insight into early American history and society that many will find fascinating.

Lynne's involvement began when the curator of the Mt. Vernon collection asked her to appraise Martha Washington's jewelry, with specific emphasis on items that could have been owned personally by the Washingtons. This turned out to be no simple task for while everything had supposed family provenance, a good two-thirds of the items turned out to be of considerably later date. Some were even 20th century pieces. For example, a seed pearl bird that has been labeled "Martha's bird" is actually late 19th century and was probably made for the centennial or one of the deaths. The Mt. Vernon curator was not always pleased when Lynne had to say that some item from a prominent donor was decidedly not of the period! Such are the perils of historical appraisal.

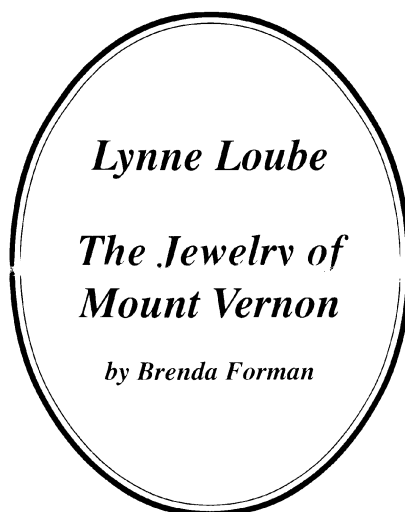
Research into archival letters, records and receipts helped confirm ownership by matching specific pieces of jewelry to specific years. For example, provenance of a pair of buckles with round brilliant cut



"Martha's" seed pearl bird, actually late 19th century.

foiled topazes was confirmed by an exchange of letters between George and close family friend David Humphries. (A 1750 book by David Jeffries that Lynne owns shows diagrams of the brilliant cut, so the cut was definitely known at the time.)

Her research also led to broad revision of much of the received wisdom about Martha's jewelry. Her portraits hardly ever show her wearing jewelry and so it had been assumed that she did not care for it, but the records show that she owned quite a bit of it and also bought it extensively for family members. The "pearls" in one of her portraits, however, were probably



white quartz or chalcedony beads because Martha could not have afforded pearls. The Jeffries book also contains a price list on pearls and diamonds and when Lynne's engineer husband figured out the prices in today's dollars, he found that they would have cost \$40-50K today. The Washingtons were rich, but not that rich!

One major signature of 18th century American jewelry is low karat gold because there was a gold shortage at the end of the 18th century. Europe was convulsed by warfare more or less steadily from the early 1790s down to Napoleon's conclusive defeat in 1815 and every country had a policy that made it legal to waylay and commandeer an adversary's ships, then bring them back to any port in the captor's



On-the-spot examination of jewelry brought by attendees..

country where the government would keep half the booty. As a result, gold, especially in America, was scarce and necessarily alloyed with base metal.

As an example, Lynne showed a slide of a Portuguese gold necklace sent to Martha by David Humphries, with a combination of 18K and debased gold elements. Its provenance was confirmed by a letter from Humphries to Martha saying he would be sending this necklace to her, and a book by David Jeffries also showed earrings with 6K disc centers surrounded by a gold motif that seems to match the necklace. Similar ones appear in the book *Earrings*, where it is said that they were worn throughout Europe in that year.

Another characteristic of 18th century American jewelry is many closed-back mountings. Hair jewelry was also everywhere, especially in Martha's jewelry. "Martha was a hair freak," Lynne said, showing several slides to illustrate the point.

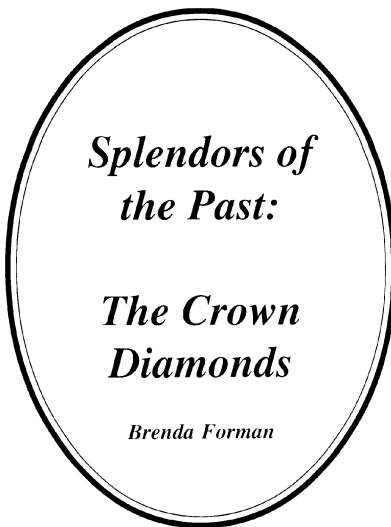
Paste was extremely common and copies of 18th century paste are everywhere now. Here's how to tell genuine 18th century paste:

- 1) Every stone is cut to fit the shape and space of a different setting. No uniform shapes.
- 2) Black dots are painted on the culet to look like the culets of the time whose tips were cut off, leaving a dark shadow in the stone's depths.
- 3) Exposure to moisture has turned the foiling slightly orange.

These are the French Crown Diamonds as they appeared toward the end of the Second Empire. They had first been put on public display at the Paris Exposition of 1855.

The Crown Diamonds, assembled over a period of some two centuries under the Bourbon Kings, had a checkered subsequent history. In 1792, at the height of Revolutionary upheaval, they were stolen from the King's Wardrobe. Several were recovered some months after the theft, however, either hidden, like the famous Regent diamond, in the thieves' house or buried in the Champs-Élysées, which in those days was nothing but empty land.

When Napoleon Bonaparte came to power in 1799, France had been at war for some six years and nearly all the gems were in pawn overseas to finance the war effort. Napoleon redeemed them and largely succeeded in reconstituting the collection. He also added to it extensively with purchases for the Empress Josephine (who had a truly consuming passion for gems and jewelry) and for his wedding to his second wife, the Austrian Archduchess Marie-Louise. Not a single one of these jewels survives, however. All the gems were repeatedly reset as one regime succeeded another in France's turbulent



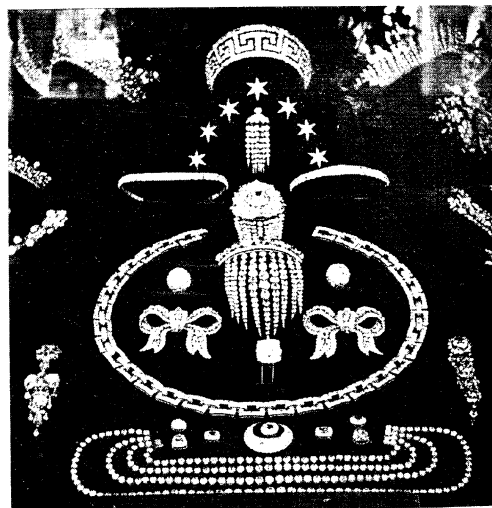
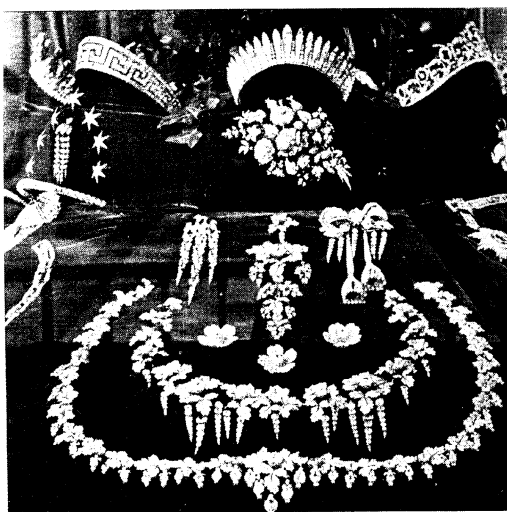
19th century. Louis XVIII, the first king of the Bourbon Restoration after 1815 had the entire collection reset over a period of years.

It was said that in twenty years of exile, the Bourbons had learned nothing and forgotten nothing and in 1830, the result was another revolution -- although one radically shorter and hugely less bloody than the preceding one. It brought to power another descendant of the Bourbon Kings but one who understood his position considerably better than the two who had preceded him. Louis Philippe,

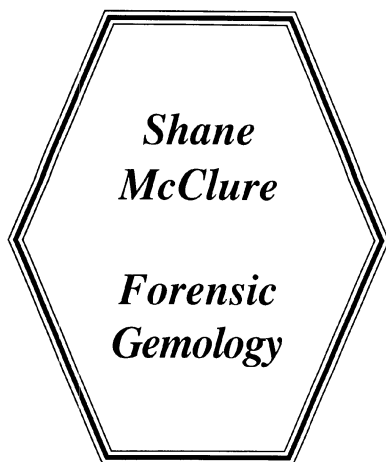
although a king in title, was a bourgeois at heart. He was rather a homebody and lived a very domesticated existence (to the frustration of those who longed for the splendor of royal or imperial courts) and so the Crown Diamonds slept peacefully in their vaults for nearly twenty years. But all that changed when Louis Napoleon (Napoleon I's great-nephew) came to power in 1848 and had himself proclaimed Emperor Napoleon III in 1851. The Crown Diamonds re-emerged and figured prominently in the glittering, non-stop party that was the Second Empire. Eugénie, France's last Empress, loved diamonds passionately and many of the jewels shown here were made at her direction using the Crown Diamonds.

The Second Empire fell in the wake of France's crushing defeat in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-1871 and in 1887, the government of the Third Republic auctioned off the Crown Diamonds. Tiffany bought a great many of them for his new, immensely wealthy American clientele. Mrs. Joseph Pulitzer immediately bought the four-strand *rivière* on the right and wore it the next evening.

Photographs are from Volume II of *La Bijouterie Française au 19^{me} Siècle* [French Jewelry in the 19th Century] by Henri Vever.



The French Crown Diamonds as they were at the end of the Second Empire



On Tuesday, March 21st, Shane McClure, senior staff gemologist in the Identification Department of the GIA Gem Trade laboratory, gave us a fascinating tutorial on the increasingly inventive procedures for enhancing gemstones — without being detected. He calls what he does “forensic gemology.” The term is apt.

GE Clarity-Enhanced Diamonds:

De-colorizing diamonds has been the Holy Grail of diamond treaters for years but the new GE process is the first successful attempt to date. There are about 1200 of these stones thus far and supposedly, GIA now has them all in its data base. GE has agreed to identify them with a black laser mark on the girdle, visible under 20x magnification. The black can be removed by boiling the stone in acid but that does not erase it completely. He’s seen some stones now where the laser mark has been polished off, but you can still see it faintly, particularly by looking through the stone from the other side.

We don’t know much about the process. We know they begin with light brown natural stones, mostly type 2A, but we don’t know how brown or what color grades. After treatment, the stones become high colored and high clarity, mostly G or better, VVS or better, and many internally flawless. (Using 1As yields a yellow diamond.) These stones are not likely to flood the market, though.

Type 2A rough is a rare material and light brown stones are even rarer.

GIA can be about 80% sure that a stone is treated this way — but that isn’t enough. For example, the “tatami” strain pattern within the stone is grounds for suspicion — but not enough for certainty. Other possible indicators are brown graining (indicating that heat and pressure are changing the lattice deformation that causes the brown color), feathering (caused by the diamond’s vaporizing in the high heat required), and graphitization (graphite inclusions exist in brown diamonds but not in colorless diamonds).

Green Diamonds. In 1999, Novatech in Utah said they had found out how to turn diamonds a beautiful yellow-green color in just five minutes with very high



Shane picks a winner

pressure anvils and high temperatures. Novatech will laser-inscribe their stones. They are detectable under a spectroscope, which induces strong greening not typical of natural stones. These stones have stronger zoning than natural stones and they are also very fluorescent. Natural stones fluoresce too but if you get a very strongly colored yellow-green stone that fluoresces in visible light and is priced low, you should sent it to a lab for analysis.

Laser-Drilled Diamonds. Some dealers have reported that the Israelis are trying to laser-etch diamonds in such a way as to imitate the irregularities of natural etching in order to get them through certification without the laser-drilled call. The results do resemble natural etching but they are arranged along completely

straight lines, something never seen in nature. Some of this lasering is designed to widen a feather that comes to the surface so that a bleaching solution can be introduced.

Mong Hsu Ruby Treatments. Thai stones have displayed glass fillings since the mid-1980s but they were not very prevalent. Then the Mong Hsu discovery in Burma yielded lots of stones — but lots of problems too. The stones were small, with a big blue core and lots of inclusions. They have to be heat-treated to sell and so GIA began seeing more glass fillings, more filled-in fractures and surface cavities. Mong Hsu stones often have glass filling, but only if GIA can actually see it will they say it really is glass. The fillings are not silica glass but it’s unclear what they really are. Some rough is so badly fractured that only the glass filling is holding it together while some lower quality stones and cabochons have natural inclusions that look like glass. A major question is: are fractures being healed within the stones? Does heating in borax actually seal fractures, making them grow back together? McClure is skeptical, but nobody knows. They are seeing fingerprints, i.e., partially healed fractures, within the stone but fingerprints do happen in nature.

And the Beat Goes On: Other processes are coming along almost too fast to keep up with. The game’s afoot and the sleuths are on their trail. Be aware and stay tuned.



Shane McClure

Our new chapter president, Carolyn Chappell, is far from a new face in the crowd. She has in fact been a member of the chapter since its second meeting back in 1984, when she was asked to serve as vice president for the 1984-85 term. She then went on to serve as president in 1986-87. More recent members will recognize her from her annual gig as a lively auctioneer at the holiday party.

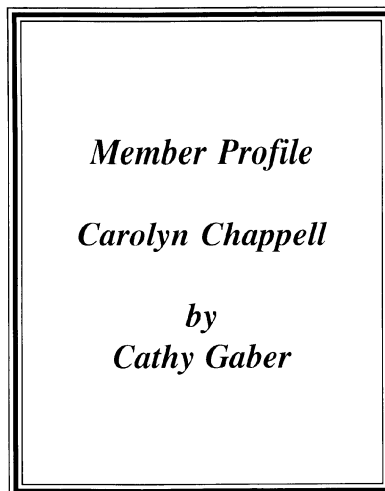
After two years of studying English at Radford College and the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, she started out working for the County as Fairfax (VA) in the income, personal property and business license division for five years. Later she moved around a bit to Long Island, New Jersey and California, while her (now divorced) high school honey husband pursued scuba and underwater photography. She eventually became the bookkeeper and payroll manager in her husband's Bahamas cruise ship business in Virginia in 1974. Through the 1970s and 1980s, she travelled extensively and enjoyed scuba diving in the Caribbean.

Her interests and career underwent a major rerouting in 1980. When Carolyn took some jewelry to Tony Bonanno to have it appraised, he, not surprisingly, talked her into taking his gemstone class.

Studying with Tony was never dull. Carolyn considered herself a wonderful consumer and thought she was familiar with a lot of gemstones, but she soon discovered not only that sapphire was not always blue but also that a lot of specialty stones such as willemite or smithsonite were also interesting.

Tony also taught her about "crap-ite, stuff-ite, and junk-ite" and she has certainly encountered her share of the latter since then. She earned her PG (Professional Gemologist) with Tony in 1981 and then pursued GIA courses in diamonds and colored stones.

Her by-appointment-only retail business, *Carolyn's Crystals*, founded in September, 1980, originally specialized in glass



and gemstones but currently features colored stones, diamonds and gold jewelry. Carolyn is also an antiquer, collecting American Brilliant Period cut-glass, colored glass (cobalt and cranberry), and Victorian Era things over the last thirty years.

Carolyn has a number of other interests. Following in the steps of her barbershopper father and uncle, she has been a member (and president a couple of times) of the *Sweet Adelines* for 34 years. In addition to singing with her regular quartet, she joins other makeshift quartets for special appearances such as "Singing Valentines" at private homes, parties, offices or even hospitals. The *Sweet Adelines* bring out her creative side; the skits, the costumes and the entertainment factor are just a lot of fun to her. Her chorus holds the 1988 International championship, and her barbershop



**Carolyn Chappell
Pres. and Auctioneer
Par Excellence**

quartet won the regional championship in 1992.

Carolyn joined the Fairfax Rotary Club in 1992 and on July 1st, she will be not only the first president of the millennium but also the first woman president. (Women were accepted into the Rotary Clubs only in the late 1980s.) She is also pretty active in Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, though she is relieved she had the sense to say no to being on the Board this year. For the third time, she is the High School Reunion Chairman, this time for the big 40th reunion in 2001. For the last five years, she has been a member of the Golf Tournament Committee, and she would desperately love to play a lot more golf. She belongs to a "travel club", and though she no longer goes so frequently to Europe, Asia and the Caribbean, Myrtle Beach is high on her wish list to visit because of the 100-plus golf courses!

Born a Gemini on May 28th, she credits her sign with her outgoing, fun-loving personality and her determination not to miss anything. She lived in Wisconsin only two months after her birth, while her father was waiting for a submarine to take him to the South Pacific, his next assignment in the Navy. After a few years in her mother's hometown of Duluth and her dad's hometown of Des Moines, Carolyn's family settled in Fairfax when she was five, and she has gravitated back here ever since. Her family is local too, and she enjoys spending time with her 80-year-young mother, her younger sister (who is also in her chorus and quartet and a frequent golf partner) and her family, her brother, and her daughter and her family. On her "Adventures with Grandmommy CC", she has treated her two young grandsons to elephant riding, plays at Glen Echo, and barge riding on the Potomac.

After all Carolyn's years at the helm of many organizations, we can fully expect that the chapter is in very good hands for the next two years. Her enthusiasm and flair for colorful experiences will lead us all on new adventures.

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We couldn't thank everyone in this issue, but if you're not here now, you definitely will be soon!

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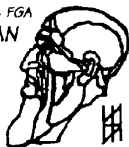
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Christie Romero's Center for Jewelry Studies will present the 2nd Annual Southern California Antique and Period Jewelry Seminar, April 14-16 at the Sheraton Suites Fairplex, Pomona, California. Lectures will cover many 20th century topics including styles, American jewelers, diamonds and colored gemstones, the American Crafts Movement, and costume jewelry. Speakers include Elise Misorowski, G.G., former GIA research librarian; Ginger Moro, costume jewelry and decorative arts specialist; Peter Shemonsky, G.G., director of the jewelry department at Butterfield & Butterfield auctioneers; Janet Zapata, author, historian and decorative arts consultant; and Christie Romero, Center director, author and lecturer. The fee is \$260 and includes all lectures, handouts, opening reception, two Continental breakfasts, two lunches, Saturday evening banquet, a "show us your treasures" session, and refreshments. The hotel is offering a conference rate of \$75/night, single or double, plus applicable taxes. The hotel is near Ontario International Airport. Free shuttle service is provided. For further information, contact Christie Romero at (714) 778-1828, e-mail: CR4jewelry@aol.com.

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To Register: Sign up at the Club's monthly meeting on April 18th, or call Kusam Malhotra (703) 845-1686, e-mail <KandK@hotmail.com>

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