



The District of Gemology

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Summer 2000

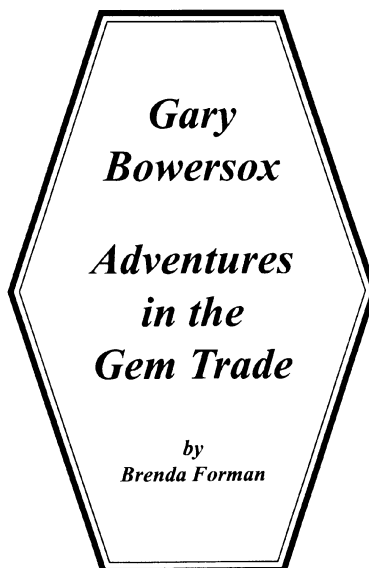
Clad in a truly nifty blue and gold Afghan outfit, Gary Bowersox took us on a gem hunt through the wild and woolly depths of Central Asia on Tuesday, May 30th, beginning with Afghanistan and continuing into Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Tadjikistan as well.

It was quite a tour. Bowersox is clearly The Most Happy Fella — a man having the time of his life hunting for gemstones in some of the most rugged, most inaccessible — and at times most dangerous — areas of the world.

By this time, he definitely knows his way around because this past year was his 28th year in those parts! A pretty unexpected career path for a guy who began as a CPA. Unsurprisingly, he rapidly decided that was bo-o-ring. So after a hitch in Vietnam, he came back and bought a jewelry store. Around 1972-73, for murky foreign policy reasons, the US wanted to help Afghanistan sell lapis abroad and so one day, Gary got a call from Washington asking him to go there and help out.

Clearly, he liked the place, since he's kept coming back ever since.

Gary Bowersox is a man with a mission. He hunts gemstones not only for their beauty and value but because he wants to



help the Afghans build a gem industry that will create new jobs and expand their national economy, which right now is based on two industries: mining and war. Eventually, he hopes to get a real training program going for the country.

For the moment, however, mine samples are sent to the US Geological Service to be tested for chrome because the presence of chrome allows the locals to know where to dig for gems.

None of this is easy. The altitude is killing, the weather is dangerous and the politics are murderous. (Indeed, his deep rapport with his hosts even may have saved his life on one occasion when he told his contacts about an area where he was going looking for rubies. Don't do that, they told him, because it's going to be attacked that day!) Language

is yet another major obstacle: there are eight regional languages and 22 dialects.

Clearly, however, he *likes* these folks. He admires their honesty and their unfailing hospitality, even in the most remote areas. Look at him in the pictures in this article: this is a man completely at home.

This area that Bowersox has made his second home has a long and colorful history. The Afghan lapis mines, for example, date back more than 7000 years. Now Afghanistan is making fine lapis boxes plus solid lapis table tops. Gary held up a hefty oval top with white agate inlay and related how he'd told the craftsman that its value would be enhanced if he would sign his work. He then wondered why that process seemed to be taking so long but when the top finally arrived, he found out. Far from merely scrawling his name on the back, the craftsman had inlaid his complete name and full title in agate on its back!

The lapis mines are the hardest to get to because the Russians left literally thousands of land mines behind when they finally withdrew from Afghanistan after years of bloody fighting. The locals seem to treat this hazard fairly casually, but Gary remarked that he rapidly learned to walk a respectful distance *behind* the leader of the group!

[See BOWERSOX, page 3]



Gary Bowersox (in white) and friends.



Taking a break at cave mouth

President's Letter by Carolyn Chappell



As we go into summer, our paid annual membership stands at 110 people, with a fluctuating number of guests at each meeting. As I ask the "new" members (those having attended 3 times or less) to stand, it usually appears to be about 3 to 5 people. New people are our life's blood, and we need them to keep our chapter growing! So when you see someone you DON'T know take time to go introduce yourself and learn some names that you didn't know before you came in.

What if YOU had to introduce the person you were sitting NEXT TO when we go around the room at the start of each meeting? Could you do it??? (No fair counting the person you CAME IN WITH!)

Meeting with Patrick Ball: Last month, your Board of Directors had the opportunity to meet for a few hours with Patrick Ball, Director of GIA Alumni Associations from Carlsbad, CA. We had an open conversation on our concerns about the pricing and type of classes offered to our chapter during GIA's annual Doorstep Program in Washington, D.C. as well as the question of how we go about our chapter mailings and what they (GIA) might offer us in the way of help through postage and labels.

We also talked quite a lot about the GIA/QVC involvement. The meeting provided us all with a chance to bring our concerns to the table and get to know each other better. Patrick was more than cordial in inviting us to call on him whenever we might need help.

Holiday Party: Our holiday party is already on the chart for Sunday, December 3rd so mark your calendars — another fun time is about to happen!!!

May your summer be chock full of exciting events: working or travelling staying cool hanging out at the beach sweating in the garden or on the golf course family and friends picnics whatever you choose, ENJOY!! And save some time for our monthly meetings!!! The speakers are GREAT, and you KNOW how good the coffee and cookies are!! See you there — !

Carolyn Chappell

Deepest Sympathy

*to
Davia Kramer,
our most recent
Vice President,
and to her family,
on the loss of her mother,
Pearl Siegel
11 May 2000*

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BOWERSOX, from pg. 1:

Rubies have been found in this area for centuries. Kublai Khan said that it produced rubies the size of pigeons' eggs. And Marco Polo wrote about its ruby mines and silver mines in the 12th century. Like so many of Marco Polo's accounts, that was often pooh-poohed, but as so often, the old Venetian has been proven right because these days, more than 300 mining fields are being discovered in Afghanistan. Bowersox has even found the mine that Marco Polo wrote about. He thinks it is the source of the Black Prince's Ruby (actually a fine red spinel) that features so prominently in the British Crown Jewels.

Emeralds are found all along the long sweep of the Pansher Valley. As plate tectonics ground the Indian and Eurasian continents together, chrome and beryllium in the water of a

sea trapped between the two plates created emeralds all along the valley. At the western end, they are very dark green, getting progressively lighter as you move east. Bowersox and his helpers have found a dazzling array of other gemstones as well throughout this area



Inlaid lapis table top with thoroughly signed back surface



Bowersox and Trusty Cayuse

—morganite, aquamarine, white quartz, as well as a potential tourmaline mine. Tourmalines, rubies, garnets and spinels all come from this same area; it takes training to tell them apart.



We cluster around Gary's table of marvels

Others were carved into little free-standing works of art. (Our own Helen Serras had carved a few of those.) All in all, a wonderful evening.

In addition to his splendid slides, Gary had brought along a table display of some of the most dazzling gems you might ever wish to see. Some were set in purely glorious jewelry.

GIA Doorstep Program Class Canceled

Some of you may be wondering why the GIA Doorstep Program Class originally scheduled for May 10th didn't happen. The reason was that GIA charges us \$800 for the class and at \$60 apiece, we would have needed a minimum of 14 attendees to break even -- and not enough club members signed up for us to make it.

Some of you may have attended the GIA classes we had last year but you may not know that the club lost a considerable amount of money on them — again because not enough people had signed up to defray GIA's charges. If we hadn't canceled this year's class, we would have lost money again. For its part, GIA advises that it cannot afford to make the two-hour class available to us any more cheaply. So regretfully, we had to pass it up this year. We can try again next year, but it will again require that enough folks sign up to equal GIA's tuition charges.

ATTENTION IVORY HOUNDS!

Bobby Mann's New Ivory Identification Comparison Kits are ready!

You get all this, plus instructions:

- Comparison beads for Elephant Tusk, Mammoth Tusk, Walrus Tusk and Walrus Teeth, plus 2 comparison beads for Bone.
- Comparison crosscut slice for Hippopotamus Teeth, Whale Tooth and Antler.
- Comparison tusk section for Warthog Tusk and Boar Tusk
- Comparison 1/2 nut for Tagua Nut (vegetable ivory).
- Comparison slide for Celluloid
- 2 comparison beads for Manufactured Ivory (grain and no grain).
- Comparison rod section for Micarta.

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Questions/Comments: Phone: 301 894 2016, e-mail: mannivorymann@aol.com

On June 19th, Joseph H. Samuel, Jr., President of J. & S.S. DeYoung, Inc., America's premier period jewelers to the trade, talked about period jewelry, the flourishing market for it, and that market's business potential for today's retail jeweler.

People collect all sorts of things, he began, from seashells to the paintings of Monet. Period jewelry is just as valid as a collectible as painting but as yet, it tends to be regarded as "second-hand." That, however, really doesn't make much sense — you don't say, "I just bought a second-hand Monet!"

Indeed, jewelry is a prime candidate for collecting but as yet, the retail jewelry trade has not adequately explored or exploited that potential. But doing so is becoming something of a necessity, because the market for gems and jewelry is changing radically. Diamonds are on their way to becoming a commodity with the advent of the Internet with the result that that segment of the business may soon bypass the retailer. "Branded"



A winning smile

designer jewelry is being marketed ever more widely. Thus, the retail jeweler needs to explore new and attractive market niches and period jewelry is a promising one.

Oddly enough, however, he finds that some jewelers are afraid of it. Most merchants are "event oriented." That is, they focus on holidays, weddings, graduations, etc. Collectors, however, will buy at any time of the year. To be sure, building a name in period jewelry does require that you build a credible inventory. It also requires you to identify someone in your organization who is really interested in the subject. But if you do, that person can create a real business in it for you. Even if they are not all that knowledgeable at first, they can become so now because in recent decades, a great deal has

Joseph H. Samuel, Jr.

Period Jewelry

by Brenda Forman

been written about jewelry and its history.

Right now, this potential business area has been appropriated by the major auction



Huddling with Carolyn at dinner afterwards

houses. They have discovered that there is a lively market for period jewelry and they are doing a huge business in it all over the world. Jewelers everywhere are essentially forfeiting those sales to the auction houses — but they don't need to if they follow Samuel's suggestions and build their own business and customer base in this area.

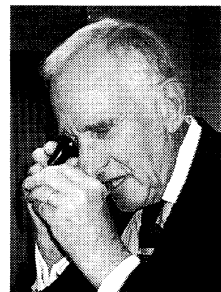
As he showed a succession of exceedingly handsome slides of jewels from the beginning of the 20th century down to



With Dennis Nelson

about the 1950s, Samuel made some observations about what is selling and what is not in that field these days. A major change of late in the market is that in recent years, the question of beauty has become more important than the question of intrinsic value. What really sells today is what the customer thinks is pretty.

In more specific examples, showing a beautiful chatelaine lapel watch in enamel and diamonds, he noted that these don't sell well even though they are extremely pretty. Star sapphires are also hard to sell in the U.S. today. On the other hand, a growing number of his customers are asking for old-cut and European cut diamonds, particularly those set in old mountings. Showing a dazzling necklace composed of glittering cluster motifs, he noted that clusters are always popular, either in necklaces or earrings. Dress clips such as those made so extensively in the 1930s are more popular in the U.S. than in Europe. (Most convertible clips were made in the U.S.) And pretty Deco rings are very much in demand.



On the spot exam

He noted that he doesn't like the term "estate jewelry." They took some "estate" pieces to Japan but the Japanese regarded it as jewelry belonging to dead people and they wouldn't buy it.

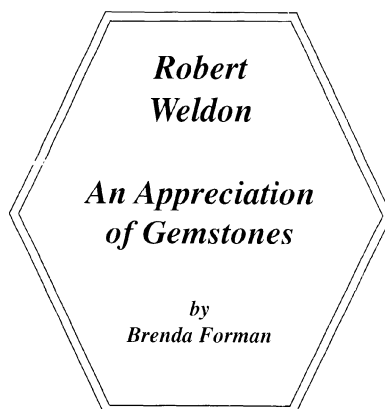
Jewelry moves around the world a lot under the impact of current events and/or fashion trends. During World War II, a great deal of Victorian/Edwardian jewelry moved from England to the U.S. when its owners needed to raise money. In the 1960s, his firm's biggest customers were Italians. On the other hand, the Middle Eastern and Asian markets do not like it much. When offered a fine period piece, the Sultan of Brunei refused it, answering that he would make his own history!

Photographer extraordinaire, Senior Writer for Professional Jeweler magazine, and gemstone lover Robert Weldon gave us a lively *Appreciation of Gemstones Seminar* on 18 April 2000, all gloriously illustrated by his drop-dead-gorgeous photographs. Weldon began by declaring his loyalties: many retailers don't carry gemstones and rely instead on diamonds, he said, but he's an avowed advocate for colored stones. More and more sources are being discovered now, most particularly in Africa and soon, he believes that most of the gems produced in the world will probably originate in Africa, notably in Tanzania, Kenya and Mozambique, followed closely by Madagascar which Weldon calls "the next Sri Lanka."

Then he launched on a whirlwind world tour of new gemstone sources, beginning with Tanzania. Tanzanian farmers began finding a fabulous array of gems in the Tunduru river, including diamonds, chrysoberyl, sapphire, spinel and tsavorite. But tanzanite production has declined precipitously. The earliest deposits have dried up in the last two years and heavy rains flooded the mine tunnels and collapsed them. Consequently, prices have jumped to about \$4-500/carats in just 18 months, while there are much fewer blues on the market now. Instead, you see lavender and "QVC" colors.

Afgem Co. of South Africa has just leased Blocks C and D from the Tanzanian government. Block C has not been worked to very great depth yet. It was originally mined for graphite and as a result, its tanzanites are laced with graphite but there might be large crystals there. Afgems is establishing a full-scale, world-class operating mine there, seemingly wanting to emulate de Beers in colored stones by stabilizing prices, something unprecedented in the colored stone field.

Tanzania has also made a new find of green grossular garnet close to the Kenyan side. In the past, this gem was so rare that people didn't see much of it. Now it will become more popular as more becomes available. The beautiful



orange "Mandarin garnet" comes from Namibia but is also found in Nigeria where it's called "pumpkin orange." However, rhodolite garnet production is going down in Africa. Nigeria has had good tourmaline finds, but they get mined out readily. Before moving on to other continents, Weldon noted that Africa may yet become an ever greater diamond supplier because these countries have kimberlite pipes running throughout them. That means, he said, "The story on diamonds is not over yet."

Next on the tour was South America. Turns out he was born and raised in Bolivia! The intensely blue Paraiba tour-

maline is mined in the "heel" of the continent. Its price has now gone up to \$15K/carats. New deposits have been promised but as yet, they have not materialized, so the price will continue to go up. Most of the stones are quite small; a 10-carat stone is considered museum quality. As for Brazil, Weldon calls it "a paradise of tourmaline" but he expects it also to become more and more known for diamonds, especially reds and pinks.

Jumping the Pacific, he noted that both Sri Lanka and Thailand have become major cutting centers. Thailand no longer produces sapphires and rubies but it has developed first-class skills in cutting corundum.

Weldon wound up his talk with some absolutely show-stopping photographs. Notable among them was a shot of a 10,000-carat aquamarine obelisk, about 30" tall, exquisitely carved and worth who knows how many millions of dollars, artfully posed in the desert outside Tucson. The gem was utterly glorious, gleaming in the Arizona sunlight, but you had to wonder how nervous it must have been to have it sitting out in the open with nothing to guard it but a couple of photographers!

In the Q/A period, Weldon was asked how he gets such intense colors in his photographs and he favored us with some invaluable photography tips:

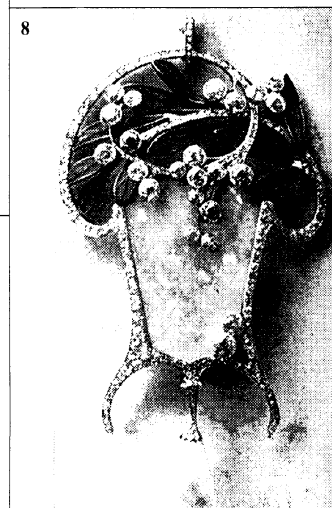
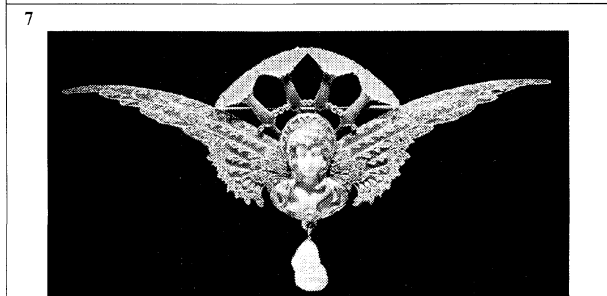
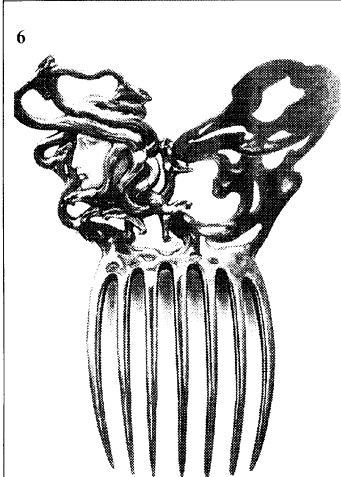
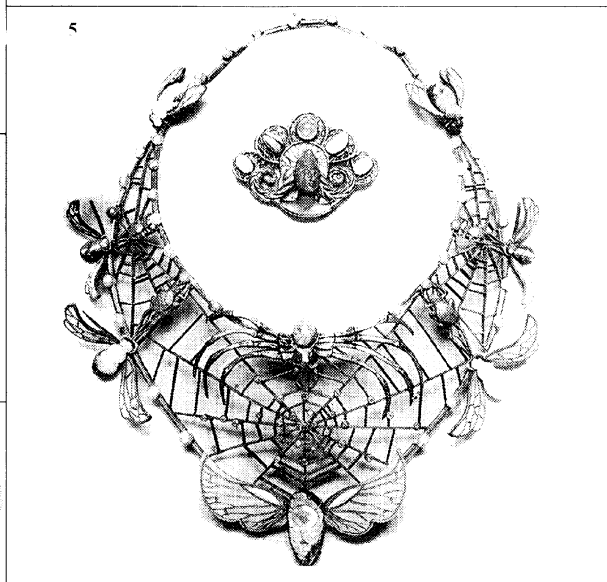
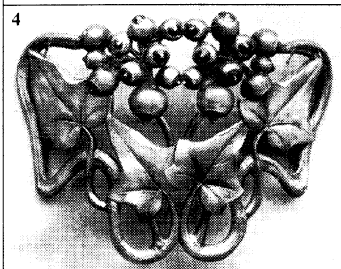
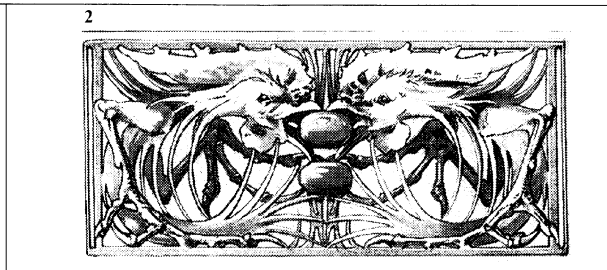
- 1) Choose the best possible specimen you can find.
- 2) Diffuse your lights. Use incandescent, not fluorescent lights.
- 3) Angle the stone so its table is parallel to the lens of the camera.
- 4) He uses Tungsten 64T film,
- 5) Do not use a flash.
- 6) Don't try to attach the stone to the background with anything because it will show right through the stone in the photo and make a blotch of color. Instead, stand the stone on its culet or its side.
- 7) For shots through a microscope, get the best scope with the best optics you can.

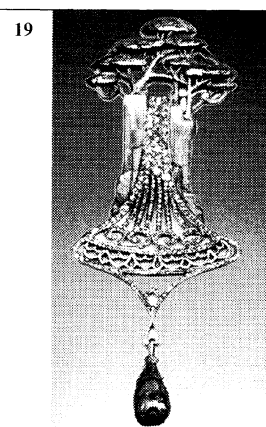
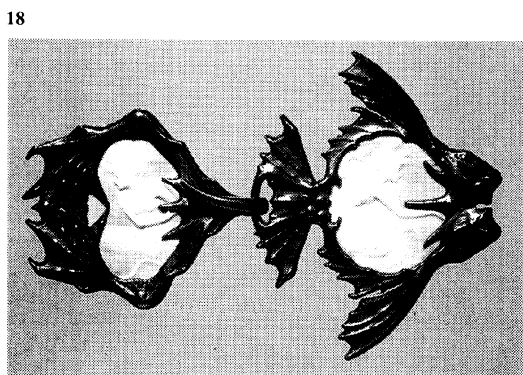
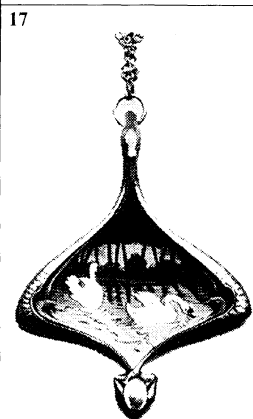
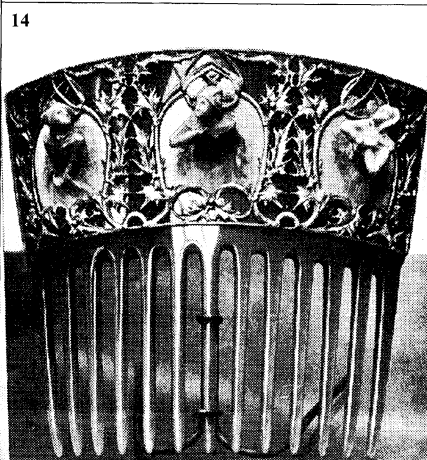
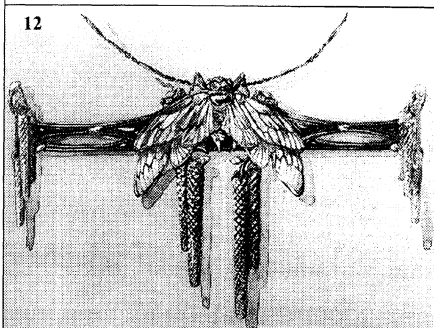
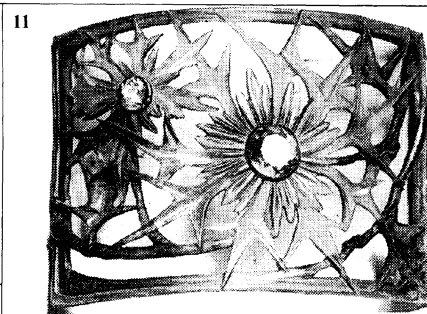
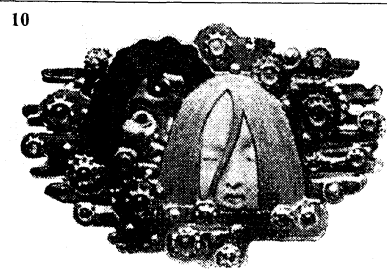


Robert Weldon
Writer and Killer Photographer

***Where's René?
Can You Find the Real Laliques?***
by Brenda Forman

Beginning with his electrifying exhibits in the Paris Salons of the mid-1890s and building to his triumph at the great Paris Exhibition of 1900, René Lalique created a style so distinctive that it often seems instantly recognizable. But that style was imitated so widely and so instantaneously that the Paris Salons of the first years of the 20th century were packed with pieces that could pass very nicely for the work of the master himself. Witness the photographs here. They show selected pieces of jewelry exhibited at Paris Salons between 1899 and 1907. There are only three genuine Laliques here. See if you can find them. Answers appear on Page 8. (Photos from Alastair Duncan, *The Paris Salons, Jewellery*, 2 vols., Antique Collectors' Club, 1994.)





A few months ago Fred was asked to be the guest speaker in North Carolina in early May at a week-long workshop for gem and mineral enthusiasts. He accepted the assignment -- but then, the more he heard about the accommodations, the more he started having second thoughts. We're talking the wilds of North Carolina here, and while for many of us, a week without the phone, TV, internet, newspaper, etc., is a vacation, it was a distinctly uncomfortable idea for Fred. He actually asked if it was going to be as primitive as going to Burma!

Needless to say, however, Fred's well-practiced adaptive skills kicked in and he figured out how to stay in sufficient contact with the "real world" to keep him reassured that it would still be there upon his return.

The workshop was held at the Wildacres Retreat near Little Switzerland, North Carolina, in the mountains off the Blue Ridge Parkway. It was sponsored by the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies. Fred was scheduled to give five talks: *Jade, Rubies and Sapphires, Opal, Pearls and Emeralds*. At dinner one night, he expressed some puzzlement as to why he would have been asked to talk about pearls but not about diamonds. Good question! So when I asked if he had brought the *Diamond* talk with him, I was delighted but not surprised when he told me he had. So, much to the delight of the sixty workshop participants, the schedule was rapidly re-

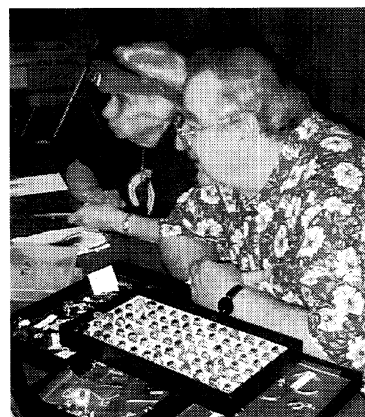
arranged to allow him to present the *Diamond* talk too.

When he wasn't at the lectern, Fred was free to visit the workshop's classes, which he investigated thoroughly. In the end, he seemed happy to settle in the Micromounting and Photomicrography class and spent quite awhile admiring crystals under the microscope. Bruce Gaber was also in that class, mostly to practice his photography skills. I took Mineral ID and played "stump the teacher" more often than not. Then, in the soapstone carving class, I made a little progress on the camel I



started carving several years ago. Fred just laughed out loud when I showed it to him. And I have to admit that it doesn't really stand up too well next to the lovely jade carvings he exhibited. Towards the end of the week, Michele Zabel was also able to enjoy the activities with us for a couple of days.

The Wildacres Workshop is held twice a year. The second session for the year 2000 will be in September. We have a different guest speaker each session. Jeff Scovil, a noted mineral photographer, will be

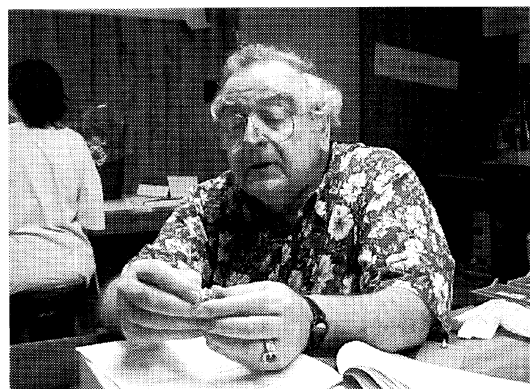


Fred Sias

Fred in Wirewrapping Class

the speaker at the September session. In addition to the classes mentioned above, there are classes in Silversmithing, Cabochon Making, Faceting, Competitive Judging, and Wirewrapping. This year for the first time there will be two new classes. I will be teaching Precious Metal Clay. Stained glass methods using agate slabs will also be taught.

Other activities include a field trip, an auction, fun night and a selection of other talks or craft demonstrations. Good food, good company, good entertainment, all at a bargain price. Just ask me for details!

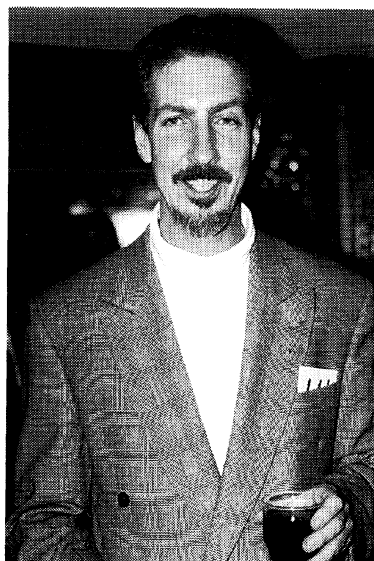


Fred Sias

Fred in Faceting Class

Answers to "Where's René"

- 1: René-Louis Foy
- 2: Georges Bouillant
- 3: Henri Vever
- 4: Jean-Louis Bonny
- 5: Charles Boutet de Monvel
- 6: René Lalique
- 7: Georges Fouquet
- 8: Frédéric Boucheron
- 9: Philippe Wolfers
- 10: Henri Vever
- 11: Marthe-Henriette-Josephine de Tavernier
- 12: Anne Schoenewerk
- 13: Henri Vever
- 14: René Lalique
- 15: Bréant & Coulbaux
- 16: Lucien Gaillard
- 17: Eugène Feuillatre
- 18: René Lalique
- 19: Georges Fouquet

*The Old Martin*

Hard to imagine, but Martin got into the gem field literally by tossing a coin. He liked taking different jobs to learn different things (as a movie projectionist in 1969, he actually got to stop the film and announce that we had landed on the moon) and in 1970, he flipped a coin to decide whether clothing or jewelry was to be his next learning experience. Jewelry won the toss and he took a job at Melart Jewelers in the Tysons Corners mall, working in sales, repairs and machine engraving. Four years later, he moved to Nupen Jewelers as an engraver. Mr. Nupen, a Norwegian master goldsmith, taught Martin appraising and jewelry-making. By 1980, Martin was manager of Nupen Jewelers Goldsmiths. In the mid-1980s, he founded Fuller and Associates. On-site appraisals became a specialty and his clients include a long list of the area's most prestigious stores. Martin loves all beautiful stones but his favorites for appraisal are colored diamonds.

Ever the kidder, Martin says he was born in Southampton, Long Island, New York, to be near his mother. His dad was in the Navy so the family moved around every 2-3 years. He's lived in Alaska, the Philippines, Hawaii, Imperial Beach, California and Fort Meade, MD. He attended Northern Virginia Community College

twice, from 1970-72, when he jokes he majored in bridge, then from 1981-82, when he earned his AS in Science while taking courses in music and theater.

Two events in the early 1970s made Martin recognize a need for well qualified gemstone experts: the introduction of cubic zirconia and other synthetics, and the "mallings of America," which steadily replaced true jewelry professionals with counter clerks. But he took his time getting his formal education in gemology. He passed the GIA diamond course in 1974 and the GIA Colored Stones/Gem Identification courses in 1984, finally earning a GG in 1986. Professionally

*Member
Profile*

**Martin
Fuller**

*by
Cathy Gaber*

active since 1987, he is a Certified Senior Member and a Certified Master Gemologist Appraiser in the American Society of Appraisers and a Senior Member of the National Association of Jewelry Appraisers. His color vision received a Superior Rating in 1997.

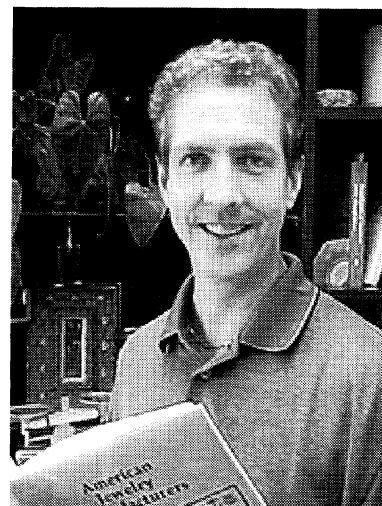
As an expert witness, Martin has testified in Maryland, Virginia and DC courts. He is also a consultant to the Fairfax Co. (VA) Department of Consumer Affairs. Curiously, he doesn't always hear how cases are resolved. As we went to press, he had still been left hanging trying to figure out how an old pearl found in a mussel in France came back from a jeweler as a steel ball bearing!

In the mid-1980s, the late Loren Atkinson,

a fellow appraiser, convinced him to come to a club seminar on ivory given by Ed Primoff at Tony Bonanno's office. Martin has been a club member ever since, serving as vice president in 1989-90 and president in 1991-92. The club newsletter was his idea and he started the multi-award-winning *District of Gemology* that you're reading right now. With a few years out in the mid-1990s, he was its original editor and publisher until Brenda Forman took over in 1999.

Some of Martin's other interests include playing the guitar for himself and in local groups, travel and sharing his interest in gemstones. From 1978-9, he traveled extensively for a year and a half all over Europe, working on farms in Norway and Switzerland to support himself. In 1988, he taught "Discovering Diamonds and Discovering Precious Gems" for the Fairfax County Adult Education program. When he participated in the Fairfax and Loudoun County Public Schools' Career Days in 1990 and 1991, the kids affectionately called him a "gemknnowledgist." It fits.

Newly married to his charming wife, Colette, Martin Fuller does indeed have stars in his eyes. (If you don't believe that, just look at their wedding picture in our last issue!) He certainly is a star member of this chapter and a delight to all who know him.

*The New Martin*

POLYGON TAKES GIA TO TASK

by John Lees

Members of the Polygon Trading Network lambasted GIA for appearing on the QVC television show, thereby seeming to endorse the jewelry being sold. Over a several-week period following GIA's appearances on QVC, dozens of irate members posted messages ranging from the nasty to the constructive (skewed towards the nasty). According to the trade journal, JCK, "GIA employees had appeared on QVC since late last year, but an April appearance by GIA Gem Trade Lab official John King, who sat beside a QVC pitchwoman hawking rings with the GIA 'Diamond Dossier,' caused a furor on the on-line network Polygon, and struck even GIA insiders as overly commercial."

Polygon is an on-line trading network based in Dillon, Colorado. It has over three thousand members on six continents. These members are retailers, wholesalers, appraisers, gem dealers, gem cutters and others active in the jewelry industry. The network offers a variety of options—there are separate channels for buying and selling diamonds, buying and selling colored stones, and buying and selling estate jewelry. There is a channel for business discussion, for computer discussion, for general conversation, for listing certified diamonds, for resolving conflicts, for establishing a website, and many more. A number and password identify members, so each can post messages to entire channels, or to individuals.

The Business Discussion channel is the one on which the QVC/GIA relationship hit the fan. In a nutshell, the bulk of criticism focused on the fact that GIA has always presented itself as a non-partisan, "not for profit learning and research institution 'above' the daily business of

buying and selling (Remember...Certificate vs. Certified?)." Now GIA is giving the impression that it is endorsing QVC.

The JCK article pointed out that QVC is a "Legion of Honor" (\$100,000-plus) donor to GIA. This hurts the rest of the industry, especially small independent stores, when GIA seems to be lending its reputation in support of a specific company, particularly a seller of lesser quality and lower priced merchandise. Many of those who commented wondered when GIA would come to their store and endorse their products. "GIA should not do anything for them that they would not do for the rest of us."

GIA President William E. Boyajian responded on Polygon:

"Something terrible has happened.

"In our efforts to use the medium of television through QVC to promote consumer education, treatment disclosure, GIA graduates and all that is good for both the industry and the public, we have somehow gone wrong. Staunch advocates of GIA policy both within and outside the Institute have described an on-air appearance this week as going over the line. In response to these concerns, we will limit all future exposure on QVC (or on or through any communication vehicle) to presentations that allow us to control the message and the context.

"Our goal has been to increase public awareness of GIA's nonprofit commitment to education and service. This no doubt helps fulfill our mission and also helps establish the influence and credibility of our alumni and students. How-

ever, GIA's efforts must never give even the perception of favoring one group over another, especially when we, like other colleges and universities, have philanthropic donors and corporate sponsors. Likewise, we must be careful not to exclude any retailing format from access to our education and services.

"I respect the opinions of those who have voiced concerns and I take every issue to heart. I reaffirm our commitment to the nonprofit principles that have earned GIA its worldwide acclaim and independence. I greatly appreciate your input and your continued support.

"William E. Boyajian, President"

At a later date, a Polygon member said he received a letter from Boyajian saying that GIA had halted all activity with television shopping vehicles and is in the process of formulating a policy statement.

Stay tuned.



Lisa Carp

Lisa Carp, long-time fellow club member, has taken over the courses formerly taught by Louise Taggart for the Montgomery County Adult Education Program:

Gemology I: Beginners (Weds. 9:30-11:00 a.m.)

Gemology II: Advanced (Tues. 9:30-11:00 a.m.)

Each is a one-year, three-semester, weekly course following the Montgomery County school calendar and includes history and nature of gem minerals, hands-on examination of mineral and jewelry specimens, use of basic instruments (e.g., loupe, Chelsea filter), guest lecturers, field trips and updates on latest explorations, technologies, synthetics and simulants.

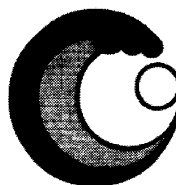
For information, call Lisa Carp at (301) 299-8205.

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Jeffrey E. Post
Curator, Gems and Minerals
Smithsonian Institution
National Museum of Natural History

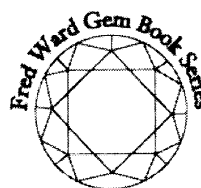
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Robert G. Davis

is on

GIA's List of

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with 155 Points!

Way to go, Bob!

*Special
Club Tour
of
Hillwood
Museum &
Gardens*

*Tuesday,
October
3rd*

On Tuesday, October 3rd, at 1:30 p.m., club members will be offered a special tour of the newly renovated Hillwood Museum. For some two years, Hillwood, the magnificent former home of the great collector Marjorie Merriweather Post, has been closed for complete renovation. It will reopen to the public in September. This is a wonderful chance for club members to see this amazingly rich collection, which includes superb jewels and Fabergé masterpieces, in their newly refurbished surroundings.

You must sign up in advance. If you haven't already done that, call Kusam Malhotra at (703) 845-1686 or 845-3752, or else you can also e-mail her at <KandKint@hotmail.com> to get on the list. The cost is \$15 per person. You may either pay at the July meeting or mail your check to Melanie Marts, 13400 Catocin Court, Herndon, VA 20170.

Hillwood Museum and Gardens is one of America's premier estate museums,

featuring the most comprehensive assemblage of imperial Russian fine and decorative arts outside Russia, and an extensive collection of eighteenth-century French works of art. These are beautifully displayed in a grand setting as they were used by Hillwood's founder, Marjorie Merriweather Post, heir to the Post cereal empire and one of America's first businesswomen.

In 1955 Marjorie Merriweather Post purchased the old Arbremont estate on a twenty-five acre site overlooking Washington's Rock Creek Park. Mrs. Post renamed the estate Hillwood, the same name as her former Long Island estate. She hired the New York architect Alexander McIlvaine to redesign and expand the old mansion completely so that visitors could view her by-now extensive collection with greater ease.

For directions to Hillwood, and for a foretaste of the glories of this wonderful house, visit their website at <www.hillwoodmuseum.org>.

The District of Gemology

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TO:

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