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ACCREDITED GEMOLOGISTS ASSOCIATION



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TO DEVELOP AND PROMOTE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS
IN THE PRACTICE OF GEMOLOGY

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AGA GENERAL ASSEMBLY - D. C.

• • Thomas E. Tashey, Jr., G.G., Secretary

On Saturday, May 29, 1982, the second general meeting of the Accredited Gemologists Association was held at 3:00 PM in the lecture room at the 15th Annual International Gem Show in the Washington-Sheraton Park Hotel. The meeting was called to order by the Association's President, Joseph Tenhagen, who welcomed the seventeen members and two guests in attendance.

Briefly recapping the Tucson meeting of February (covered in AGA Publication Vol. Seven, Number One, April, 1982), Mr. Tenhagen announced that the membership of the AGA now stands at 264 Full Members and 19 Associate Members, and that 68 former members had been dropped from the rolls for non-payment of dues.

The new, 1982 Membership List was presented containing an alphabetical listing, a state and country listing, and a business directory. The roster will be updated quarterly in the Publication. Mr. Tenhagen expects to have the AGA Membership at 1,000 by this same time in 1983, citing 25-30 letters per week in correspondence.

The treasury presently contains approximately \$8,000.00.

Mr. Tenhagen then discussed the revision of the current By-Laws in order to assist with the growth of the organization. By-Laws Committee Members having been appointed are: Elaine Baker, Chairman; Joseph Tenhagen, Marvin Miller, Neil Cohen, and Cornelius Muije, Members. A first rough draft has been completed and the final draft is slated for presentation to the membership within a few months.

Two amendments to the By-Laws have already been approved in previous votings: establishment of non-voting Associate Member status to students of the GIA and GAGB; determination of questions by a majority of voting members (instead of the original 10% in opposition).

Luana Veo, Chairman of the Nominating Committee was present to administer the oaths of office to all in-coming officers, reporting that of 286 ballots mailed, 141 were received from qualified, paid members. The balloting results: President-Joseph Tenhagen; Vice-President-Marvin Miller; Secretary-Thomas Tashey; Treasurer-Neil Cohen.

Mr. Tenhagen brought the following pamphlets and price lists to the attention of the membership, all published by AGA Members: "Diamond Market Monitor" (Donald Palmieri); "Gem World Pricing Guide" (Edward Drucker, Harold Oates, Wilbur Dyer); "Gemstone Price Report" (Jean-Francois Moyersoan); and the "Gem Market Reporter" (Kurt Arens). Also mentioned was "Gem Market Trends", published by Dr. Earl Anderson, a friend of the Association. Mr. Tenhagen then announced the intent of the Association to develop a Colored Stone Language which could be used with price lists to make a complete, full appraising system for use by the Members of the Association.

The following Members in attendance were introduced: Antonio Bonanno, past President of the AGA; Tomiko Butler, past Secretary of the AGA and co-founder of the Association with Sonja Schwartzman.

The formation of Regional Chapters in San Diego, Los Angeles,

and San Francisco was recognized and the announcement made that there were intentions of beginning Chapters in the Philippines and India.

Theresa Zook announced that she is conducting an Inter-Society survey on Colored Stone Grading and Nomenclature and requested interested members write her with their ideas on what is being done, and should be done in this field.

In closing the meeting, Mr. Tenhagen expressed his desire for continued growth of the AGA and assured the membership he would lead it in that direction.

* * *

► ► Washington Regional Report

.. Catherine Cleiman, F.G.A.
Silver Spring, Maryland

On the evening of April 4, 1982, the Washington Area Regional Chapter of the AGA held its second of four annual meetings, members present being: Antonio Bonanno, Tomiko Butler, Cathy Cleiman, Michael Cowing, Karen Ford, Chuck Hyland, Marvin Miller, Nanette Monmonier, John Piunno, Thomas Terpilak, and Theresa Zook.

New Finds and Discoveries:

Theresa Zook mentioned a new man-made gem on the market that is a lithium aluminum silicate, "Alexandrium", which has a R.I. of 1.58, is cut to beryl angles and has a color change. She felt that the colors she observed could be mistaken for morganite (pinkish-purple) and an amethyst (darker lavender). At the International Gem Show this past weekend (May 28-30) I had the opportunity to encounter this so-called "Alexandrium", which turns out to be laser glass. According to the information I received, this laser glass is as tough as nephrite, sells for anywhere in the rough from 10¢ to 25¢ per carat, and can come in any color depending on the trace elements used. The two most often seen colors, the pink and the pale lavender, are doped with neodymium. The color change is caused by a trace of cerium. The vivid blue color, so-called "Laserblue" which gets its color from copper, has no cerium and therefore no color change. The R.I. of the blue material is 1.5193, the hardness, 6.75.

Tomiko Butler mentioned that she saw a stone used by GIA for their students that was a dark green Yag full of inclusions, these being bubbles oriented in one direction.

Marvin Miller alerted us to be wary of synthetic tsavorite, now being produced. It was a much-discussed topic at the Tucson meeting.

At an earlier meeting, we had discussed the production of synthetic blue sapphire with straight line color zoning. Karen Ford related that acquaintances had been offered a parcel of these sapphires while on a buying trip in Kenya- the asking price: \$500-600 per carat in the rough!

Sonja Schwartzman wanted to know if anyone had heard of or seen diamonds that are being cut with a 64% table and 63% depth. Apparently Kwiat is cutting to these proportions and the stones are quite beautiful.

Theresa Zook suggested the 1981-1982 Tiffany catalogue as a

welcome addition to a reference file for color resources and an aid for current prices on "good" jewelry. She urged members to buy CZ, as the price has dropped way down. She also feels Yag will become collector's items.

In the business portion of the meeting, Sonja Schwartzman made note that her nomination for vice-president was not received by Luana Veo, as stated by her when Sonja asked at the general meeting, and also questioned the providing of expenses, i.e., telephone bills and air fare expenses to AGA meetings for the National officers. It was felt that in the future, all nominations be forwarded by certified mail.

The last part of the evening was spent deciding on programs for future meetings, with great enthusiasm as members expressed their choices for pertinent topics. Five programs were potentially agreed upon: Pearls; Laser beam diamonds; Antique jewelry; FTC regulations; Computer programming in the field of gemology/appraising.

NEXT MEETING: July 12, 1982, 7:30 PM, 8600 Fenton Street, Silver Spring, Maryland. Telephone-(301) 588-7770. The program will be Freshwater Chinese vs. Japanese, Biwa and Cultured Pearls. Microscopes will be prepared with some interesting specimen from Tomiko Butler, including synthetic Russian yellow quartz, synthetic amethyst, synthetic Japanese cat's eye, gahnospinel, and a rare mineral pollucite (a silicate of aluminum and caesium; colorless or white; vitreous lustre; cubic, found in cubes usually, often massive; hardness of 6.5; S.G. between 2.85-2.94; and a R.I. of 1.517 to 1.525). Sources-Maine, Connecticut, and South Dakota, and Sweden.

Dues are due next meeting-\$5.00 per year.

Suggested reading on the potential demise of the diamond market: The Rise and Fall of Diamonds-The Shattering of a Brilliant Illusion, Jay Epstein; The Diamond World, David E. Koskoff.

* * *

► ► San Diego ♦ ♦ A Source of Pride and Professionalism

..Bernadine Johnston
Fallbrook, California

On June 5, 1982, the San Diego Regional Chapter held a Gemologists' Workshop for AGA Members only, with hands-on, individual participation. Topics and highlights discussed were: Color, tone, brilliancy; Hands-on pricing (with jewelry and loose gemstones); Metal testing; Methods of manufacture, markings, quality of workmanship, repair costs; Types of pricing-retail, estate, fair market, wholesale. The educational event ran from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, with the admonition to members to: Bring: Writing material, your own price guides and your willingness to share information and listen to others' points of view.

Preceding this meeting, another highly professional offering, this one to the Public, was held on May 15th and 16th, aptly entitled "Protection through Education". The first Gemstone Seminar and Workshop sponsored by the San Diego AGA Regional, it was an unqualified success with over 100 people from all over the U.S. attending the seminar each day, held at the Holiday Inn.

Luana Veo, President of the San Diego Chapter, was MC and narrator, assisted by Thom Underwood, Secretary, as Floor Director.

Saturday's agenda included the following: Bernadine Johnston- Nomenclature and basic terminology necessary for a general understanding of gemstones; David P. Wilber- "New Gemstones" and "Gemstones of San Diego County"; John Ramsey- "Investing in Gemstones"; Dr. Vince Manson (GIA)-"Color in Gemstones"; Elaine Baker-"Another Facet", a slide presentation.

On Sunday, the program featured Dr. Peter Keller (GIA) who showed the GIA movie, "Gemstones of the Americas" and a slide presentation showing the making of that movie; Elaine Baker- "Appraisals"; John and Laura Ramsey- "Gems of the World" slide program.

A panel was presented each day to answer questions from the audience as well as to cover the subject of Investing in Gemstones- How to Avoid the Pitfalls. Three tables were set up by AGA members containing complete laboratories to demonstrate the use of the instruments to the public and anyone who had questions was afforded one-to-one help and instruction. This "hands-on" segment of the program was very well-received, as many of the guests were introduced to the instruments for the first time. Displays included Tourmaline mineral specimen and matching cut Tourmalines from around the world provided by Dave Wilber and Bernadine Johnston. An educational display of stones to avoid for investment (too dark, windowed, too included, etc.) was also presented.

Three displays of gemstone and educational material included 20 different colors of Tourmalines, varieties of all the Beryl, Garnet, and Topaz species, and a 588 ct. faceted Kunzite as well as a suite of unheated Tanzanite (Bernadine Johnston). Dave Wilber was showing "one of a kind" type stones- Chrysoberyl Cats' Eye; Imperial Jade; Aquamarine; Sugulite. Printed material supplied by the Ramseys included everything from investing in gemstones to the new magazines Gem Investor and Jeweler Lapidary Business. Between the three displays, every commercial colored stone was well-represented.

The entire chapter feels that the two day seminar was a positive experience, allowing them to make a great deal of information available to the public and in return, affording them the opportunity to meet and work with many new and interesting people.

* * *

➤ ➤ **Los Angeles Regional a Reality!**

- • Thomas E. Tashey, G.G.
- • Charles Carmona, G.G.

The first organizational meeting of the Los Angeles Area Regional Chapter of the AGA was held on April 25, 1982, at 12:30 in the Pasadena Center Holiday Inn. Mr. Stuart Malkin, acting Treasurer of the Los Angeles AGA called the meeting to order and welcomed the guests prior to luncheon.

Mr. Malkin then introduced the Chairman of the Los Angeles Area Regional, Mrs. Irmgard Blum. Expressing her feelings about the future and purpose of the local AGA she mentioned the importance of continuing education in the field of gemology and proposed that the AGA would be an educational organization.

The following were recognized as instrumental in the formation of this Regional: Rose Levine, Co-Chairman; Miriam Tashey, Acting Secretary; Tom Tashey, National Secretary and in charge of contacting the membership; Sue Johnson, Program Chairman; Stuart Malkin, Acting Treasurer, a CPA and GG; Rod Miyata and Charles Carmona, Membership Chairmen and Recruiters; Luana Veo, President of the San Diego Regional and an invaluable help to Mrs. Blum in beginning the LA-AGA; Elaine Baker, Chairman of the National AGA By-Laws Committee.

Tom Tashey was appointed Chairman of the Nominating Committee.

Luana Veo, the featured speaker, presented a slide program on "South African Gold and Diamond Mines", relying on her experience and expertise after having lived in Africa for many years. Included were slides showing rarely-seen mining and recovery operations. She shared important information regarding up-to-date methods employed by the DeBeers Organization to sort and grade diamond rough and explained some pertinent points about the geology of the diamond mines.

The next general meeting of the Los Angeles Regional Chapter of the AGA will be held on Sunday, July 18th, 1982, at 1:00 PM at the Culver City Veterans Memorial Auditorium. In progress that weekend is the 21st Annual "Fiesta of Gems" Show.

A slate of officers will be presented and election procedures will be explained. The program for the meeting will be the Show itself, with 60 displays and 17 dealers present. Admission is free and all interested persons are invited to attend the meeting along with the show. For further information, call (213) 623-8092 or (213) 208-4367.

* * *

◇ An Editorial Review

It is hoped that the following reviews of two sources of price information will be of help to the AGA membership, one in the realm of diamond pricing, the other covering colored stones.

Donald Palmieri, President of Gemological Appraisal Association, AGA member, and Publisher of "Diamond Market Monitor" has kindly offered a discount to AGA members. Please make subscriptions payable to: Accredited Gemologists Association, in the amount of \$125.00 (a savings of \$25.00) and mail to the main office. We will enter your subscription, and the donated \$25.00 from Mr. Palmieri will aid the AGA in its future growth.

The "Gemworld Pricing Guide" is one of the most comprehensive guides for colored stones it has been our pleasure to review and we gladly recommend it to our membership. Three of the staff of eight are AGA members- Edward Drucker, GG; Harold Oates, GG, FGA; and Wilbur Dyer, FGA.

Over 75 varieties of colored stones are listed, a veritable A-Z (Alexandrite-Zoisite), including "popular" gems such as Ruby, Sapphire, and Emerald, and rare gems, including Alexandrite, Andalusite, Tanzanite.

Gems are charted by carat weight and quality (good, fine, extra fine- defined in the beginning of the Colored Gemstones section) with appropriate pricing structure.

The publishers note that it also includes the most complete rare opal pricing guide ever published.

The section on pearls includes terminology and definitions on reasons for lower prices as well as pricing on strands, by MM size and length (choker, graduated, matinee). Bead necklaces are also covered admirably.

For subscription: \$75.00 one year
\$140.00 two years

Quarterly: January 1, April 1, July 1, October 1

Make Checks Payable to: RBD Enterprises

5 South Wabash

Chicago, Illinois 60603

(Illinois residents-add 7% sales tax)

The "Diamond Market Monitor" is a monthly offering as an Appraisal/Buying Guide and represents the average cost to retailers from dealers "for net cash single stone or small lot purchases", and is a compilation of price data from named sources, not just an unknown or group of unknowns. We are more than pleased to recommend it to our membership.

The pocket-sized offering contains a proportion chart explaining the pricing of fine-make stones to clarify pricing structure and is organized by weight and cut and clarity grades, as well as color. The final section deals with color treated (irradiated) diamonds of all shapes.

The dealer directory, mentioned above, is a welcome addition, with names and addresses of the sources used to derive pricing structure, and is further elucidated by specific sources for specific stones, i.e., Rounds, 1/5-1 carat, names listed of suppliers.

For subscription: AGA Members only:
\$125.00 per year
Published monthly

Make checks payable to: Accredited Gemologists Association
36 N.E. 1st Street, #419
Miami, Florida 33132

* * *

Two Notes From National:

► **The AGA Budget** is being prepared by Neil Cohen, Treasurer, and will appear in the Publication when completed.

► **Our own Personal, Professional Phone For AGA Business:**

⊕ ⊕ (305) 372-0872 ⊕ ⊕

FROM THE G.I.A. > >

We are pleased to pass on the following announcement from the Gemological Institute of America, informing us of the formation of the Gemological Institute of America Alumni Association, to further goals of advancing the science of gemology through education and research and giving members a medium for professional and social communication.

Alumni will receive, in addition to membership cards and certificates, an international roster organized alphabetically and geographically, a subscription to the quarterly, In Focus, and other benefits, including discounts on books in the GIA bookstore; new revised course assignments; tuition to the gemologists' up-date classes; fees for International Gemological Symposia; and the subscription to Gems and Gemology.

Fees are: \$60.00 per year for diploma, certificate and associates

\$30.00 per year for students.

\$750.00 for lifetime diploma memberships.

Contact: Mr. Robert Earnest, Executive Director
GIA Alumni Association
1660 Stewart Street
Santa Monica, California 90404
Telephone: (213) 829-2991, #279.



IDENTIFYING GILSON'S SYNTHETICS

• • Grahame Brown, Dip.DT.,F.G.A.A.,F.G.A.
Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

Since the mid-1960's, Pierre Gilson of P. Gilson S. A. Lapidaries, has successfully marketed a succession of man-made lapidary materials. Commencing with flux-grown emerald in 1964, Gilson has synthesized and distributed his man-made turquoise (1972), lapis lazuli (1976), and finally, coral (1978).

Despite Gilson's claims for a synthetic status for all these materials, subsequent investigations - particularly those of Nassau - have shown that although Gilson emerald, opal, and turquoise can be correctly designated as synthetics, in contrast, Gilson's lapis lazuli and coral can only be classified as imitations.

For some time after the commercial release of each of these materials, fears were publicly expressed that the identification of these well-produced synthetics and imitations was going to prove difficult. Fortunately, these fears proved groundless, as subsequent research and experience proved that Gilson's man-made materials were relatively easy to detect.

Below are listed the distinctive diagnostic criteria that *we believe should be used to insure positive identification of these very effective "look-alikes".

(*We- Members of the Gemmological Study Club of the Queensland Branch of the Gemmological Association of Australia.)

GILSON EMERALD (Synthetic)

Specific Gravity (range)	2.65 to 2.75
Refractive Index (range)	1.56/1.563 - 1.563/1.566
Birefringence (range)	.003 to .005
Characteristic Inclusions	◊ Twisted 'veils' or 'feathers' ◊ Cavity fillings in the 'veils' and 'feathers' contain material of higher RI than emeralds ◊ Phenakite crystals

GILSON TURQUOISE (Synthetic)

Absorption Spectrum	430nm absorption absent
Characteristic Surface	◊ Examined in reflected light, the surface is formed of a mass of irregularly-sized, angular, bluish particles - each of which is surrounded by a thin, paler-coloured border.

GILSON OPAL (Synthetic)

Characteristic Surface	◊ Opal colours arise from well-defined 'patches' which have roughly hexagonal outlines. ◊ Each colour 'patch' produces a single colour when the opal is not moved. ◊ Edges of the colour 'patches' are crenated, giving the opal's surface a 'lizard skin' appearance. ◊ Viewed laterally, colours rise in columns.
Fluorescence	◊ Non fluorescent; may display a dusky green surface fluorescence under SWUV

GILSON LAPIS LAZULI (Imitation)

Specific Gravity (range)	2.3 to 2.5
Porosity	◊ Rapidly absorbs immersion fluids
Streak	◊ Bright blue
Chemical Stability	◊ Violent effervescence with HCl

GILSON CORAL (Imitation)

Specific Gravity	2.45
Porosity	◊ Rapidly absorbs immersion fluids
Characteristic Surface	◊ "Terrazzo floor" surface texture

◆ ◆ ◆

BRASILIAN EMERALD FIND

• • Luiz Angelo, G.G.
Rio de Janiero, Brasil

Notes of identification report of an emerald crystal from Santa Terezinha, Goias, Brasil, May 3, 1982.

- * SHAPE: Long, prismatic hexagonal crystal measuring approximately 9.70mm in length and 8.00mm in width.
- * COLOR: Intense, grass green.
- * R.I.: 1.582 - 1.590 Rayner Dialdex
- * S.G. 2.80 Hydrostatic weight Mettler PB300C
- * ABSORPTION LINES at 627nm and 670nm
- * INCLUSIONS: Mass accumulation of colorless transparent and translucent crystals appearing to be calcite; flakes and pieces of biotite, sometimes forming dendritic figures.

Emeralds from this source as cut gems are appearing in the local market and I have to confess that they are as nice as the best Colombian emeralds I have seen, with more clarity and color quality than all the other emeralds mined in this country (Brasil) before.

◆ ◆ ◆

IDENTI-PRINT

• • Roger C. Trigg, G.G., F.G.A.
Cape Town, Republic of South Africa

I want to bring to your attention a new development in the jewellery appraisal field which I have evolved.

This consists of including with the typed document describing the jewellery, a photocopy of the same.

For this purpose, I have purchased a Rank Xerox 230 photocopier,

which seems to be the best. A clear photocopy of the jewellery is produced and ring sizes, pearl sizes, lengths of chains, etc., can be checked.

This idea has brought an enthusiastic response from the Insurance companies, for whom the appraisals are principally done, and from the local C.I.D. of the police force. I quote, "I personally believe that your method could eventually prove to be invaluable to the police. Your recommendation is being circulated throughout the Western Cape Division." - Divisional Commissioner, Western Province.

I feel that this development should be widely used and for this reason am publicising it.



JEWELRY AND GEMSTONE PHOTOGRAPHY

• • Rod K. Miyata, G.G.
Los Angeles, California

There are many aspects to photographing jewelry and gemstones. For the hobbyist or collector, a photograph is another way of capturing the beauty of a mineral, a gemstone or a piece of jewelry on a two-dimensional plane. In gemology, photos of inclusions aid in identification and also aid in teaching others the beauty of the microscopic world of inclusions. In photographing inclusions, John Koivula has authored an excellent article in the Fall issue of Gems and Gemology, Volume XVII. For the appraiser, accurate photos are of the utmost importance when incorporated in appraisals. The subject of this article deals with photographing for jewelry and gemstone appraisals.

Photographing gemstones and jewelry is not as easy as the notion of "point and shoot" with a camera, but it is not so difficult that one must be a professional photographer to obtain accurate photographs. One must realize that the subject matter being photographed has high lustre, reflection and refraction. There are many aspects that must be taken into consideration: type of film, depth of field, backgrounds, lighting, processing of the film, and much more. With all of these points in mind, the bottom line is to keep things as simple as possible.

Many simple photograph systems do offer simplicity, but in turn, some of the accuracy is lost, as in the case with the Polaroid systems. There are many Polaroid systems on the market, such as the photo-cabinets which take black-and-white pictures and develop in 30 seconds. These may be fine for some people, but the accuracy and color reproduction is absent in these pictures. Two Polaroid systems we've had some success with are the Polaroid CU-5 and the Gem Instruments Photo-Scope. We use the Polaroid CU-5 mainly for mobile appraisals. As for the Gem Instruments Photoscope, it takes very good pictures through the microscope using high speed black and white film. (Exposure time is long for colored pictures). The main complaint of Polaroid film is the color instability and short shelf life. When appraising, one must not sacrifice the important detail and color for immediate pictures and for convenience.

After experimenting with several camera systems, we have had excellent results with our present system which consists of a Nikon F2 35mm camera body with a micro-Nikkor 1:2.8 lens, using a Benchair photostand. The type of film used is Kodacolor II with an ISO (ASA) rating of 100 which is daylight film. This system is very expensive but we found what we were looking for in accurate color reproduction and equally accurate detail. In the processing of the 35mm film, what we thought would pose a problem in the time for development turned out to be very simple. In the Los Angeles area, the introduction of several business firms that develop and print film in one hour has simplified things admirably.

We have seen many appraisals which incorporate photographs that are enlarged, representing items at many times their actual size. In all our appraisals, we incorporate a millimetre scale and include in our "comments", the size at which we took the photograph, i.e., $\frac{1}{2}$ size, actual size, twice the size, etc.

For accurate color reproduction, a neutral gray background negates color enhancement. Sometimes a white background is used for very pale stones. Polarizing filters on the lens are used to reduce reflection and glare of the photo-lights. The types of lighting may greatly affect the color of the subject: tube lighting usually renders natural colors incorrectly; most fluorescent lamps give a green cast which is not visible to the human eye but is easily recorded on photographic film. Color correction filters can alleviate these types of problems. If one is using high temperature floodlamps, be careful of heat-sensitive stones and of heat-sensitive inclusions.

Photography is an essential key with jewelry and gemstone appraisals. With a brief visual check, one can see exactly what a piece looks like rather than resorting to a paragraph of words describing a piece in the hopes that a reader can visualize the image. If and when an insured piece becomes lost, damaged, or stolen, photographs enable the insurance companies to accurately replace the item.

Millions of people enjoy the pleasures and the challenges of photography and, when incorporating photography into one's work, they give a sense of professionalism, as well as being a great source of fun.

DEFINITIVE AND DAMNING: The Story of a Diamond Inclusion

• • E. A. "Ted" Brockie, G.G.
Fort Frances, Ontario, Canada

Several years ago, I had occasion to perform an appraisal on a multi-diamond cocktail ring that featured a 0.42 ct. round brilliant diamond. In the course of the appraisal, the diamond's inclusions (and other data unique to this individual diamond) were plotted. (The GIA has long recommended substantiating a diamond's quality by hard data to back quality claims, damage reports, or, as in this case, positive identification of a particular diamond).

This particular diamond was soon to be stolen!

In the events that followed, both the insurance company and the insured had lost track of the quality report and coverage was extended on a limited description. In the summer of 1979, the ring was

stolen and the claim settled for several thousand dollars. All of this transpired uneventfully from the appraiser's standpoint and the appraisal was just one of a large number of clients' records.

Sometime later, the individual who stole the ring had the diamonds unset and approached the appraiser's firm with 7 of the diamonds, requesting a remounting, which was performed. Apparently, the individual had been suspected in the thievery and the appraiser was contacted with the question posed: "In the event that you were presented with the 0.42 ct. diamond, now stolen, that belonged to Mrs. ___ and was appraised by you at the time, could you positively identify it as the diamond?"

A look at the plot of the diamond's internal inclusions and SI clarity grade allowed an unequivocal "Yes!"

Acting on this information, the ring was seized and immediately inspected by me and Constable Gary Vittie of the Fort Frances Police Department. The diamond and the plot matched.

On the strength of this, an arrest was made and the Crown was prepared to use this data as its only "hard and cold" evidence, requesting me to explain the validity of the plotting mechanism to the court.

The accused pleaded guilty to the charge 6 months after the charge had been laid.

This brief narrative underlines the importance of maintaining high levels of credibility and gemological capability in performing appraisals. Only by so doing can the insured be guaranteed of a proper replacement. Also, the insurance company retrieved (and later sold) the diamond and recovered a significant portion of its loss. The necessity of adequately performing a proper descriptive work-up of the major gems becomes "crystal" clear.

The author hopes to inspire more complete appraisal work-ups from those known to be able to perform them.

Special thanks are extended to Constable Gary Vittie for his thoroughness and helpfulness in this investigation.

SUMMIT MEETING OF GEMSTONE GRADING LABS

Press Release

• • Peter G. Read, F.G.A.
Dorset, United Kingdom

Representatives of the leading international coloured gemstone certification laboratories held a two-day Conference in London on March 30-31, to discuss grading techniques and standards.

The Conference was hosted by the Channel Islands-based investment company, Gems International, and participating delegates included: Charles Carmona (Guild Laboratories, Los Angeles), Henry Ho (Asian Institute of Gemological Sciences, Bangkok), Roy Huddleston (Independent Gemstone Testing Laboratory, London), Sarabeth Koethe (United States Gemological Services), Philippe Mai (Scientific Gemological Institute, Antwerp), Guy Margel (European Gemmological Laboratory, Antwerp, New York, Los Angeles), and Peter Read (United Gem Laboratory, Colombo), who also acted as Conference Organizer and Chairman.

Observers to the Conference included Alec Farn (acting for A.E. Thomson, President of the CIBJO Coloured Stone Commission), Carl-Henrik Nylen (Gems International), Jean-Paul van Doren (IGTL), and other

representatives who wish, for the present, to remain anonymous. In addition to his participation in the Conference, Philippe Mai also acted as an observer for the Hoge Raad voor Diamant Laboratory, Antwerp.

Among topics discussed the first day of the Conference: subjective grading equipment (lenses, lamps, etc.), grading standards, nomenclature, and the establishment of a comparative table of grades for colour, clarity, and cut. On the second day, the main discussion subjects were colour measuring instruments and the detection of treated stones.

Agreement was reached during the Conference on the standardisation of the type of fluorescent tube used in the grading lamps of the participating laboratories. Among other standards that were formally accepted was the rounding up/down of carat weights to two decimal places, with the round-up point at 0.009, and, where relevant, the recording of an appraisal/valuation on a separate document rather than on the certificate. Where a photograph of a gemstone is incorporated in a certificate, a millimetre scale should be included in the photograph to indicate size. It was also agreed to use the phrase 'colour type' rather than phrases such as 'probable origin'.

As several Colorimeters and Spectrophotometers specifically designed for the colour measurement of gemstones are becoming commercially available, these are to be evaluated by a technical sub-committee chosen from the participants. It was also agreed that any instrument technique for the measurement of colour should be based on the C.I.E. system.

Perhaps the most important outcome of the Conference was a decision to produce a comparison table of grades for colour, clarity, and cut. Data for this table will be obtained by assembling a representative set of coloured gemstones and sending these to each laboratory in turn, for grading. This will assist in the direct comparison of grading information contained in the various coloured gemstone certificates, and will be particularly useful in double certification.

At the end of the Conference, the participants agreed to become founding members of an International Gemstone Grading Committee. Peter Read is to act as the Committee's first Chairman for a period of twelve months, and will distribute a quarterly newsletter containing information from Committee Members and test reports on new grading and colour measurement instruments. The Second Coloured Gemstone Grading Conference is planned to take place during March, 1983, in Bangkok, when the host will be AIGS.

A.G.A. SURVEY RESULTS

- Charles Carmona, G.G.
Los Angeles, California

Outrage at gemstone appraisal fraud was a main topic at the AGA Tucson meeting in February. I suggested at the meeting that an anonymous survey, under the auspices of the AGA, would generate some average markups at different levels actually taken by sellers to the public. With the cooperation of four gemstone newsletters, one hundred responses were collected over a period of four months. Although the data may not be statistically significant, it is interesting to note the following results:

PER STONE WHOLESALE COST	<u>\$2,000</u>	<u>\$5,000</u>	<u>\$10,000</u>	<u>\$25,000</u>	<u>\$50,000</u>
CATEGORY #1- Independent dealer/broker without office/staff:					
NUMBER IN SAMPLE:					
Inventory	18	18	17	15	15
On Memo	19	19	19	18	18
AVG. MARKUP (STD. DEV.)					
Inventory	48% (38)	43% (32)	34% (42)	25% (27)	19% (16)
On Memo	27% (19)	22% (14)	17% (10)	15% (8)	12% (5)
CATEGORY #2- Wholesale dealer/broker with office/staff:					
NUMBER IN SAMPLE:					
Inventory	23	23	24	21	20
On Memo	22	22	23	21	20
AVG. MARKUP (STD. DEV.)					
Inventory	39% (24)	35% (25)	28% (20)	21% (13)	15% (12)
On Memo	28% (23)	25% (23)	20% (12)	16% (9)	13% (10)
CATEGORY #3- Investment company with office/staff:					
NUMBER IN SAMPLE:					
Inventory	4	4	4	4	4
On Memo	5	5	5	5	5
AVG. MARKUP (STD. DEV.)					
Inventory	27% (9)	22% (9)	19% (8)	17% (8)	17% (9)
On Memo	20% (7)	19% (7)	19% (7)	16% (7)	16% (12)
CATEGORY #4- Retail jeweler:					
NUMBER IN SAMPLE:					
Inventory	27	26	23	21	20
On Memo	24	23	22	22	22
AVG. MARKUP (STD. DEV.)					
Inventory	104% (81)	88% (86)	70% (72)	52% (57)	47% (61)
On Memo	81% (43)	58% (26)	51% (37)	51% (34)	36% (37)
CATEGORY #5- Miscellaneous (Financial planners, appraisers, etc.)					
NUMBER IN SAMPLE:					
Inventory	10	9	9	8	8
On Memo	7	6	6	5	5
AVG. MARKUP (STD. DEV.)					
Inventory	66% (54)	49% (32)	37% (21)	30% (21)	23% (16)
On Memo	55% (27)	38% (29)	30% (29)	20% (7)	15% (6)

The A.G.A. wishes to thank the following gemstone lewsletters for their help in the survey by including the blank in their recent publications:

- *GEM MARKET TRENDS, Austin, Texas
- *JEWELRY/LAPIDARY BUSINESS, El Sobrante, California
- *GEM MARKET REPORTER, Phoenix, Arizona
- *COLORED GEM DIGEST, Garden Grove, California

A.G.A. MEMBERSHIP UPDATE, JULY, 1982

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★ RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP:

Bonanno, Kathryn L., FGA	8600 Fenton Street; Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
Ford, Karen J., FGA	11400 Stewart Lane; Silver Spring, Maryland 20904
Gunderson, Brian, GG	520 5th Street; Sioux City, Iowa 51101
Levine, Rose, GG	606 S. Hill St., #1110A; Los Angeles, Cal. 90014
Marble, Carolyn C., FGA	15 Cabinteely Close; Dublin 18, Ireland
Monmonier, Nanette, FGA	#10 Columbia Corp. Center, #130; Columbia, Md. 2104
Palmieri, Donald A., GG	Union Trust Bldg., #481; Pittsburgh, Penn. 15219
Puterbaugh, Roger P., GG	201 Oneida Drive; Loveland, Ohio 45140
Rosen, Elly, FGA, GG	14-4 East 13th Street; Brooklyn, N.Y. 11230
Wenger, Wendy T., GG	117 Ridgemont; San Antonio, Texas 78209

★ NEW MEMBERS:

Arkison, Mary T., GG	16900 Northchase, #1818; Houston, Texas 77060
Bonham, Frank C., GG	3104 Fourth Street, #301; Santa Monica, Cal. 9040
Ginsberg, Mark C., GG	Plaza Center One, #300; Iowa City, Iowa 52240
Hedlund, Nick, GG	550 S. Hill, #925; Los Angeles, Cal. 90013
Hensel, Lillian C., GG	759 Vincent Avenue; Bronx, New York 10465
Hilton, Barbara A., GG	4167 Central Avenue; Riverside, California 92506
Hurwitz, Jeffrey I., GG	P.O. Box 674; Frederick, Maryland 21701
Jeand'Heur, Michelle, GG	8210 Firestone Blvd.; Downey, California 90241
Kassab, Elie G., GG	417 S.W. 4th Avenue; Portland, Oregon 97204
Keidan, Jay, GG	220 W. 5th Street, #607; Los Angeles, Cal. 90013
Kowalsky, George A., GG	#632, 550-6th Ave, S.W.; Calgary, Alberta T2P OS2
Luartes, Elaine J., Gem.	P.O. Box 558; Wayzata, Minnesota 55391
Merrell, Charles E., GG	6318 S.E. Aldercrest Ct.; Milwaukie, Oregon 97221
Pittman, David L., Gem.	2868 W. Keys Lane; Anaheim, California 92804
Retzlaff, Mark W., GG	P.O. Box 612; Alamo, California 94507
Shore, Barry F., GG	811 Appleby Street; Venice, California 90291
Taylor, Barbara, GG, FGA	934 4th Street; Santa Monica, California 90403
Thornley, Robert D., GG	1768 Main Street; Green Bay, Wisconsin 54302
Vanerian, Hamo N., GG	608 S. Hill Street, #1001-1002; Los Angeles, California 90014
Vinyard, Ronald W., GG	1200 Orbanco Bldg., 1001 S.W. 5th Avenue; Portland, Oregon 97204
Wachs, Gerald, GG	18 E. 48th Street; New York, New York 10017
Wolkenfeld, Michael, GG	629 S. Hill Street, #609; Los Angeles, Cal. 90014
Wright, Doris A., GG	4167 Central Avenue; Riverside, Cal. 92506

★ ASSOCIATE MEMBER:

Svec, Gary A., Ph.D.	P.O. Box 1824; Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406
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TOTAL MEMBERSHIP, JULY, 1982:

● 298 Full Members

● 20 Associate Members