

AGA Update

 ACCREDITED GEMOLOGISTS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1986

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLICATIONS

DANA L. RICHARDSON, MGA

Dear AGA member,

Tucson was wonderful as usual, with a good turnout of members, lots of learning and socializing!

I met with Jack Kelsey our new executive director and our president Neil Cohen to plan the new monthly newsletter. Our hope is to get out two Cornerstone publications each year; April/May and August/September, with newsletters monthly in between.

We will have a number of different departments, each with their own reporters, to bring you the latest information from around the world.

This first newsletter will basically outline the format you will see in the future, with the reporters beginning their contributions with the next letter. Any contributions you can make will be greatly appreciated! As always, thank you for your patience and support.

Dana

PUBLIC RELATIONS

BRENDA JOYCE CALDWELL, ASA, MGA

The AGA conference produced more potential "stars" to be born in their local newspapers. I was diligently at work to get people to open up and give me some information to publicize their identity. Janet Post already sent me her outline and it is on its way to her local papers. Joseph Paul will be the next one up for stardom. Elizabeth Cressey has her story almost ready. You can be next! Send me a story on why you became a gemologist, what is your expertise, what is the primary function of your business, what have you done to contribute to your

community? I want to know you, but more importantly, your potential clients need to know you.

By the way, I want to let you know that I greatly enjoyed seeing all of you that I met for the first time at the conference. We are getting to know each other so well by mail, but it is especially nice to be able to put a face with the name. For those of you who could not attend, we want you to know that you were missed. Keep in touch!

B.J.

ADMISSIONS AND MEMBERSHIP

ROBERT L. ROSENBLATT, MGA / S.D. "JACK" KELSEY, ASA, MGA

The admissions and membership department has been busy with the membership drive utilizing the "Take a Closer Look" brochure. AGA had a small booth at the Holiday Inn Broadway G.L.D.A. show thanks to Ted Themelis who set it up with the director at no charge to us. We tried to keep the booth manned at most times with a lot of help from Jack and Betty Kelsey and B.J. and company! We passed out the brochures as well as extra Cornerstones to those who showed an interest in the organization. Already requests for more information are coming in from these people. If any of you would like to have a number of copies of this brochure to pass out, or would like to see one, please contact Jack Kelsey. Jack has kindly accepted the duties of membership chairman (along with everything else he is doing!) so please let him know your needs and ideas. We need all of you to work to help us grow! Robert

MGA

DONALD A. PALMIERI, ASA, MGA

The M.G.A. program had three new recruits at the conference with the 1983 MGA's recertifying. We continue to grow slowly, but with quality. This class I introduced a table for determining the liquidation and fair market values of diamonds, typical diamond and colored stone set jewelry and antique and period pieces. Lots of time went into the researching of this through auction results and other areas. It should be very helpful in complying with the IRS definitions.

Donald

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

TED THEMELIS, P.G.

Have you seen Ted's wonderful column in Lapidary Journal each month on inclusions? Be sure to check this out, they are very interesting. AGA gets a good mention each month under his name in these articles. Also, congratulations to Ted for his eyewitness account of the heat treating process in Sri Lanka converting Geuda to blue sapphire in the February 1986 Lapidary Journal titled "Oven Fresh Sapphires". Ted miraculously was able to video tape this process, and anyone attending his sessions at the Holiday Inn Broadway on Heat Treatment and Spectroscopy had a real treat getting to see this. As always Ted's wonderful dry humor was evident right from the start-the title "Romancing the Geuda". The video tape showed the 'oven', how it was loaded as well as the actual cooking process from start to finish. It is amazing how crude it actually is! We then watched slides of the effects of the heating process on the stones inclusions, and how these give away the secret of its color enhancement.

Ted hooked up his new scanning spectroscope to a video monitor to demonstrate its use to enhance the capabilities of this instrument, and discussed the areas of the invisible spectrum and its application towards identification of gem materials. The class, which lasted approximately four hours and included time for questions and discussion, was extremely interesting and informative.

Ted has put together a group of texts including color photographs of inclusions to accompany the discussion of identification of heat treatment in blue sapphire, and well as articles on ruby. These can be purchased from Ted for the ridiculously low price of \$25.00 for the entire set of three. You will not want to pass this one up-it is worth many times the price.

We look forward to upcoming R & D reports from Ted, and thanks to him for the wonderful work so far!

AGA REVIEW

ANTONIO C. BONANNO, P.G., MGA

This department will be researched and written by Antonio Bonanno, and will include excerpts from past AGA publication materials which are still useful and applicable to us now. We appreciate all that Tony, as one of the original members of AGA, has done for us, and continues to do. If you were not aware of it, Tony and his daughter Antoinette have written a book on gemstones, geared to the consumer. She is lecturing around the country with the book and is doing quite well. They have been kind enough to put in some good words for AGA and the MGA program. We wish them much success! Hopefully we will have a review of this book in an upcoming newsletter.

BOOK REVIEW

GEORGE P. KLEIN, C.G., MGA

This section will provide an overview of current and not so current books which we feel you would be interested in reading or hearing about. At this time George P. Klein has kindly volunteered to review books and share his comments with us. I would like to get at least one more member to do reviews as well, as most of us do not have time to read an entire book every month. Please let me know if you would be interested in doing this. I would also like to get ideas on which books you would like to see reviewed, or comments on any you've read recently.

CONA. FROM PAGE 5

Tucson on Detection of "HICAP" : Heat Induced Color Alteration Present, and Country of Origin determination for ruby, sapphire and emerald.

We learned that heat treatment modified fluorescence, texture, inclusions in the material, increases dichroism, diffuses color zoning...that the disclosure of the treatment to the customer should be presented positively, emphasizing the increase of the availability of the material, the reduction of the price, the client should be aware of the fact that good results are still rare, but the process is stable.

We then, had a chance to travel and get familiar with the geographical locations of countries bearing rubies, sapphires and emeralds, and their characteristics. Afganistan and Pakistan Emerald looking very much like Colombian Muzo material, we learned to make the distinction. Rubies from Afganistan and Pakistan bearing a close resemblance with Burmese stones, Mr. Beesley taught us how to differentiate them.

Slides of exceptional beauty were projected during the presentation: Breathing images of this internal world of crystals! most of them, often withstanding any comparison with the most beautiful contemporary paintings.

The second night, no more theory, no more passive listening, it is time to practice. Tonight, another dimension is added to the seminars.

Actually, looking into the stones, through the microscopes set for us during that session, answered a thousand questions. This glassy high refractive fracture, this snowball core embedded inside the crystal are beautiful and stand in such relief! Where does that Emerald come from ? Mr. Beesley goes from one student to another, from this microscope to that one, answering patiently every question, erasing every doubt, pointing out the different inclusions to recognize the origin of the stone...

Time is flying away, it is already midnight, the Students are very excited, eager to learn more and more about stones, the Teacher, generous enough to give more and more precious information, the session goes on until 1:30 a.m.!

The conclusion of these two nights should be that if we were about to forget everything we have learned, we ought to remember, and Mr. Beesley felt very strongly about it, that in our search for an answer, never be satisfied with one or two indications, but to seek for more and more evidence, to finally gather enough information to support any conclusion, and that in the final analysis, if there is still a doubt, to consult with another gemologist of a Laboratory.

The last of the sessions is no less interesting or educative than the previous nights. Now we combine slides, lecture and explanations with practical work with stones and microscopes. The subject tonight is color classification and grading of colored stones. We learned that three elements have to be considered: 1-the Observer , 2- the Objective, 3- the Light Source. Mr. Beesley's system, known as Color-Scan, was thoroughly explained to a point where a beginner could color grade and clarity grade a colored stone using his system.

This 7 to 10p.m. session came to conclusion at 12:30 a.m. and for most of us, it was just the beginning...

Michele

TUCSON ON VIDEO!!

Thanks to Robert Rosenblatt, Stephen Wesson, Cortney Balzan and Rod Wagner, the speakers at the AGA Tucson conference 1986 have been video taped, and these tapes are available for purchase, with the complete conference (12 tapes) for \$225.00, or individually for \$23.95 each.

The tapes will feature one speaker each and run approx. 60 minutes. Watch for the orderforms in the upcoming Cornerstone!

ASA ACCEPTS MGA PROGRAM

Through the efforts of Joe Tenhagen, Neil Cohen and Donald Palmieri, the American Society of Appraisers (ASA) join with AGA to negotiate to accept MGA's into ASA Senior Member Status, as their highest designation. MGA's will only be required to take the ethics portion of the ASA exams to attain this status. Details will be outlined in the upcoming Cornerstone. If you have questions or comment, please let us hear from you!

MEMBER PROFILE

Neil H. Cohen, our newly elected (2nd term) President took his undergraduate training at Georgia Tech where, in 1967, he received his BS in Industrial Engineering. In 1971 he was awarded an MBA with a Finance Major from the University of Hartford, where he now serves on the Advisory Board of the Executive MBA Program. Neil is one of the select few to have been certified by the American Society of Appraisers (ASA) in more than one discipline. A long time Senior Member in Personal Property-Gems and Jewelry, about two years ago he qualified in the Real Property-Urban branch. Having been associated with the jewelry business since 1960, he became a Gemologist in 1967 and has his own gem and appraisal business in Hartford. Neil is on the Executive Board of Directors of the Greater Hartford Better Business Bureau and has long been active in improving appraisal standards and the appraisal profession. A man of great energy, Neil is the immediate past president of the Connecticut Chapter of ASA and is ASA's Regional Governor for New England. He, with Joe Tenhagen and Don Palmieri, was a principal designer of our MGA (Master Gemologist Appraiser) program and instrumental in having this designation accepted by the ASA for obtaining Senior Member status. In his spare time (???), he does some teaching as a member of the Adjunct Faculty, U. of Hartford; has done a series of training sessions for various members of the Insurance industry; and devotes no small amount of time to conducting seminars within the Gem, Jewelry, Insurance and Appraisal fields. It's a pleasure to know Neil and have the opportunity to have some of his expertise and enthusiasm rub off on us.

Thank you to Bill Benedict for this profile of Neil. I am looking for several members to help research other members for this section each month. Please let me know if you would be willing to help out in this area.

By the way, Neil is at this very moment in Salt Lake with his daughters for a ski vacation. We all (with Robert Rosenblatt and his wife) had an AGA



PRESIDENT NEIL COHEN

'meeting' and social event last night!

AGA MEMBERS IN PRINT

Besides the articles mentioned earlier by Ted Themelis, we want to say congratulations to Pam Abramson for her fine report on "Accidental Diamond Coatings" in the January 1986 issue of the Journal of Gemmology--

CLERICI SOLUTION-A WARNING

The Journal of Gemmology warns that in view of the extremely dangerous nature of Clerici solution and the possible hazards when used by individuals not accustomed to handling dangerous chemicals, the Council has decided that the Association [GAGB] (1) should not support its use in gem testing and (2) would not supply the solution in future.

Thank you to Bill Benedict for this info. This leads us to our next department in the newsletter, Trade Publications Review. In future newsletters we will have the most important items from trade publications' current issues.

S.D. "JACK" KELSEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AGA

Just like the Chinese New Year, AGA's Tucson happening is much more than a calendar date. It is a time of community, a time of new learning and new resolves, a time of closing out the old year and seizing new directions a time for fireworks and a time for growing.

Heaven knows we had the fireworks Monday evening in Cap Beesley's machine-gun attack on the System and what a wonderful sense of community the night we tried vainly to finish off all of our free drink tickets!

President Neil has delegated responsibilities for AGA's activities and has drafted many of our members to do these tasks (although we need still more if you can let me know). A growing membership and treasury, the new Cornerstone, R&D reports and other assets will be yours in the year to come as a result. AGA's Year of the tiger is off and running. Make it work for you.

S.D. Kelsey, MGA, ASA
Executive Director



Jack and his lovely wife Betty

SPECIAL REPORT

By Michele Hallier

Late Evenings-Early Mornings
Sessions with Mr. Beesley

Mr. Beesley's evening seminars at the AGA annual meeting in Tucson last February have been sensational and extremely beneficial for the attendees.

Even a novice in the field of gemology would have been fascinated by the

energy, charisma and enthusiasm of Mr. Beesley. When Mr. Beesley talks there is no room for futilities, there is no time for jokes either. A little humor now and then, but let's not deviate from our common passion: gemology. Every information given is precise and backed-up by solid knowledge.

The first of the three nights was a general discussion, in the amphitheater of the Hotel Park

CONJ. ON PAGE 3



TRADE PUBLICATIONS REVIEW REPORTERS

PAMELA ABRAMSON, GG
WILLIAM T. BENEDICT, MGA
HOWARD N. BIFFER, MGA
JOHN P. LAURI, MGA
YOUNG B. McQUEEN, G.G., FGA
LARRY G.G. PHILLIPS, MGA
JANET F. POST, G.G.
EDSON RYDER, G.G.

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JEWELERS CIRCULAR KEYSTONE
CANADIAN JOURNAL OF GEMMOLOGY

MARKET NEWS

This department is looking for reporters! We plan to have three sections, Diamonds, Colored Stones and Metals. Ideally we would like to have reporters from different areas of the

country in each category, as well as reporters from other parts of the world. If you would be willing to help out, please contact Dana or Bill Benedict. Thank you.



A grand turnout at this year's conference. We had some wild moments, and others when all was silent as we listened intently to excellent presentations. If you have never been to a conference, you are really missing out. Besides the formal lectures, the amount of information you can glean from conversations at lunch and after hours is amazing! Hope you all can make it next year!



A SPECIAL THANKS TO JOSEPH TENHAGEN, B.J. CALDWELL, JANICE SPENCER AND ELIZABETH CRESSEY FOR ALL THEIR WORK IN PUTTING TOGETHER AND RUNNING A FABULOUS TUCSON CONFERENCE!!!



NEW COMMITTEE FORMED

A new AGA committee "COMMUNICATIONS" has been formed, and will be headed by Rodney Wagner as Chairman. He will be introducing AGAnet, a versatile and expandable computer networking system which will be exclusive to AGA members. This affordable system will be compatible to all existing hardware. For those who don't have hardware already, we will be making recommendations for inexpensive equipment suitable for this system.

Features

Want ads-Bulletin Board

Low cost membership communication with exclusive membership security codes
A special (to be announced) revolutionary method of utilizing existing color grading systems!

A feature article will appear in the upcoming Cornerstone-watch for it!

SURVEY

Yes, it's time for another member survey! This time we don't even want to know your sex! Please take a few minutes to fill this out and return it as soon as possible in the self-addressed postage paid envelope. This information will help us to concentrate our efforts to benefit you most. Thank you for your help.

TWO MANY MGA'S?

Did you get a brochure a while ago promoting a new gemological group-the Master Gemology Association? Be an MGA-just send money. This group was started by EX-AGA members Bruce and Cary Keno in a childish attempt to get back at us after Bruce was 'removed' from the MGA program. The Cornerstone will carry an article from the MGA committee describing the situation. We'll keep you posted!

Photography by Edward Rosenberger

DISCLOSURE ISSUE DISCUSSED

Senator Greenleaf will soon put this into law, let us be the first organization to make sense out of the whole mess and to offer consumers a practical understanding of treatment.

During the annual AGA membership meeting, a motion was introduced discussing mandatory disclosure for all AGA members. We need your input and comments before it is put before the full membership for a vote. Please use the back of the survey to let us know how you feel about this issue.

Do you feel you could utilize a package to help consumers understand treatment?

Do you feel you need help to identify heat treated stones?

Could AGA help you by distributing a list of sample disclosure statements?

In the ranks of AGA we have the nations leading authorities on the detection of treatment. They are there and willing to share their knowledge. This issue of treatment was the key topic at the conference. Let us know how we can help you to deal with this!

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