

# AGA Update

 ACCREDITED GEMOLOGISTS ASSOCIATION

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## HIGHLIGHTS FROM TRADE PUBLICATIONS

**MODERN JEWELER MARCH 1986**  
by PAMELA ABRAMSON

Pages 44-48

INSIDE IDAR-OBERSTEIN by  
David Federman

The German city of Idar-Oberstein is the colored stone cutting capital of the world. This informative short article tells of Idar's history, preeminence in the colored stone trade, and indispensability. Mr. Federman notes that Idar has a ten years' accumulation of rough of many gems; the tiny German town will obviously be a force in the colored stone market for some time to come.

### BULLETIN

Be advised that synthetic alexandrite (not synthetic alexandrite-like corundum) is being offered for sale as natural in the Central Florida area. Stones are being sold with certificates signed by local gemologists. I was approached and offered double my regular fee to certify a stone as natural. It would be a good idea to review the specifications of this material and be careful out there!!!

Pam

**GOLDSMITH APRIL 1986**  
by LARRY PHILLIPS

Page 8

### NEWSWATCH

Report on Tucson show notes increased availability of tanzanite and tsavorite even in larger sizes... also increased popularity of tourmaline and demand for pink stones including sapphire and spinel (\$75-\$650 per ct.).

Mentions A.G.A. seminars including Kurt Nassau and Ted Themelis and our "fiery panel discussion on heat treatment" (disclosure).

Page 14

**GEMSTONE IMPORTS DROP IN VOLUME AND VALUE IN 1985** by Cheryl Kremkow

"The value of United States colored gemstone imports dropped 15 percent in 1985"

"Sapphire became the most popular... the average price for sapphire hit a new low"

"(Prices of) Emerald and ruby rebounded slightly...Emerald is still the most valuable"

"If you disregard the statistic for Brazil, imports of other gemstones...declined...10%" (Loss of a 15% tax credit has led to a tendency to understate the value of Brazilian imports).

An interesting breakdown of U.S. Department of Commerce figures for gemstone imports for various sources in 1984 and 1985 is presented.

Page 26

DEALERS CHOICE by Cheryl Kremkow

Synopsis of gem value and popularity forecasts for 1986 representing the opinions of 21 gem dealers.

"Pink and green are red hot" "Purple ...is selling well"

Some interesting individual opinions as to the immediate future of the colored stone market are expressed.

**JOURNAL OF THE CANADIAN GEMMOLOGIST SPRING 1986**

by EDSON RYDER

Official Journal of the Canadian Gemmological Association  
P.O. Box 1106, Station Q  
Toronto, Ontario  
Canada, M4T 2P2

Annual subscription \$20.00  
Published Quarterly

Page 2

CORUNDUM DOUBLET by G. Brown FGAA, FGA FCGMA, Dip.DT, Dip.GR

Fabrication of corundum doublets in Bangkok is discussed along with diagnostic features and nine photos, and photomicrographs. The materials used are natural greenish to greenish blue sapphire crown and vermeil synthetic corundum pavillion. The face up color of the doublet is controlled by the color of the pavillion.

Step by step manufacturing sequence is given and also the methods of detection. The text is approximately two pages, with four pages of photos.

Page 9

A BRIEF HISTORY OF WESTERN JEWELRY by J. Dykstra, BA, FGA, FCGMA

A very concise but complete summary is given of ornaments worn by man from the Paleolithic period up to the present.

Each development in materials and manufacturing is discussed. The years are broken down into distinct periods; for example, Bronze Age, Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Gothic, Renaissance, etc. right through Art Nouveau and Art Deco.

The article covers six pages.

Page 14

CERUSSITE by William Wight BA, FGA, FC, GMA

A technical article on the unusual gemstone, Cerussite. Complete data is given on this stone which is mined primarily in Tsumeb Namibia.

Cerussite is a beautiful gem but very difficult to fashion as it is soft (3-3½), brittle and heat sensitive. The luster is adamantine and the dispersion 0.055; higher than diamond. Colors are colorless, white, grey, smokey, greenish and yellowish.

The article is three pages long with one illustration.

**LAPIDARY JOURNAL SUMMARY: MARCH 1986**

by YOUNG McQUEEN

Comment: If you have not read Lapidary Journal recently you are in for a surprise. It has changed its emphasis completely reflecting, I believe, the decline of the rockhounding industry. There are almost no articles in this issue on rockhounding, no where to find it, no how to cut it, no how to spend ten hours to make a silver whatever for a \$3 cab. There are increasingly more articles on Gemology and Jewelry. It has become a more interesting magazine for me but I do feel nostalgic about the decline of rockhounding since many of us got our start in the field.

Page 5

FACETS

Short newsbriefs mostly relating to gemology.

Page 10

TOUCHSTONE

Editorial on question of stone total weights and ranges in jewelry.

Page 19

INCLUSION OF THE MONTH

Curved Striae by Ted Themelis

Page 20

BURMA'S JADE

History and miscellaneous info concerning Jadeite in Burma.

Page 26

RARE AMONG RARE

Info on unusual gems from Asia.

Page 39

INFRARED DETECTION

Info on using infrared photography to detect heat treatment in corundum.

Page 42

ANATOLIA: GEMS FROM THE PAST

Artifacts from ancient sites in what is now Turkey, of gemological interest.

Page 45

INDIAN ANTIQUITY

Info on amethyst and citrine from ancient sources in India.

Page 56

FLYING FINGERS

Info on Indian lapidary's methods largely unchanged for 800 years.

Page 62

GEM TREATMENT: AQUAMARINE

Dr. Pough's beginning of a series on gem treatment.

Page 64

PRODUCT NEWS

New product briefs, including some from GIA

Page 68

SHOW NEWS

Large Listing

**LAPIDARY JOURNAL SUMMARY: APRIL 1986**

by YOUNG McQUEEN

Page 6

FACETS

"Orissa Garnet may be called Malaya Garnet" Confusing tidbit: Article says it is rhodolite. Malaya? Footnote: GIA's preferred spelling is "Malaia"

GILBERT MITCHELL

He is the new publisher and editor of Lapidary Journal. Dead at 52. Sad. He was doing some fine things with this magazine.

FACETS contains miscellaneous other items including a disturbing number of freebie ads.

Page 16

GEM TREATMENT: DIAMOND by Dr. Pough

This is the second in the series on this subject. Must reading.

Page 20

INCLUSION OF THE MONTH

By Ted Themelis of AGA, this month Repaired Ruby.

Page 21

FIELD TRIP

Excellent reference of sources and checklist of planning aids.

Page 26

BIG SKY SAPPHIRES

Let's go to Montana. Filled with info we all should know a little more about.

Page 38

THE OLD CHESTER EMERY MINES

Let's go to Mass.

Page 42

WOOD HUNT Let's go to Texas.

Page 50

PROSPECTING FOR ALASKAN GOLD

Page 58

WEBBER CREEK

Let's go to Arizona for agate, etc.

Page 64

KAILUA CRYSTALS

Let's go to Hawaii for little quartz crystals

Page 79

SHOP HELPS

Tips for cabbers.

Page 81

FLOATING FOR FOSSILS

Let's go to Pennsylvania.

Page 85

INDEX TO VOLUME THIRTY-NINE

Page 91

40TH ANNUAL BUYERS GUIDE

To Gem and Mineral Clubs and Dealers

NOTE: We commented on the last issue that it was almost devoid of "rockhound" issues and full of gemology and jewelry topics. Well this month they turned the tables.

**NATIONAL JEWELER MARCH 16, 1986**

by YOUNG McQUEEN

Page 1

RISING YEN UPS PEARL PRICE; IMPORTERS TO 'WAIT AND SEE'"

The Yen has revalued upward vs. the U.S. dollar by 30% in the last year. The Japanese do not think the U.S. market will absorb a 30% increase in prices so they are cutting the prices by some 10%. Importers are expected to have their prices by a few points resulting in a price increase to the U.S. retailers of some 15%

COMMENT: The article does not note what are the basis of the percentages. For example, assume a Japanese farmer/processor was selling to the U.S. importer for \$100 and the importer was selling to the retailer for \$125. Now the yen revalues by 30%, the new price with no changes in markups becomes \$130 to the importer and \$162.50 to the retailer (\$130 x 1.25). Even if the farmer/processor cuts his price by 10% to \$117 (130 x .9) and the importer cuts his price by 5% we still have a greater than 15% increase.  $117 \times 1.25 \times 0.95 = 138.94$ --almost 40% more. But who knows what the real markup is at the importers' level?

JEWEL THEFT & FRAUD SUSPECT SOUGHT IN INTERNATIONAL HUNT

Morton L. Dock, 48 is being sought by various agencies for approximately \$1.5 million in theft from jewelers in New York, California, Florida, and Arizona, et. al.

TUCSON GEM SHOWS BOOM; JEWELERS' ATTENDANCE GAINS

Discussion of attendance gains of 25% and discussion of lax credential checking by the show's owners.

PEOPLES OFFERS \$50 MILLION MORE; ZALE SAYS, 'NOT FOR SALE'

NEW COMPETITION: TV RETAIL SHOWS SELL JEWELRY ON AIR

Interesting article on TV "auctions".

SUSPECTED ILLEGAL LABOR PRACTICES SPUR ANTWERP RAIDS

The raids mentioned earlier evidently center on the diamond industries policy of paying its cutters 'off the books' in cash. Prices are expected to climb as cutters start paying cutters more and paying payroll taxes.

Page 10

LAZARE KAPLAN DIES AT 102: BEGAN DIAMOND-CUTTING CO.

Details on life and death of a legend in the field.

Page 34

TOUR THE EHIME PREFECTURE, HOME OF TOP PEARL FARMS

Discussion of the noted area in Japan.

Page 43

PEARL KNOTTER BUILDS BIZ BY GIVING A 'CUSTOM EDGE'

Free ad for device to string beads/pearls.

Page 44

THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO DRESS UP A PEARL NECKLACE

Good reference of devices used on or with strands of pearls. Could be useful for appraisers.



**NATIONAL JEWELER SUMMARY APRIL 1, 1986**  
by YOUNG McQUEEN

Page 1

**VOLUNTARY TREATMENT DISCLOSURE COULD HEAD OFF STATE BILL: PJA**

The Pennsylvania Jewelers Association is trying to get the jewelers in Pennsylvania to voluntarily disclose gemstone treatments to their customers. They hope this action will prevent a state law on the subject.

**GOV'T PROBE BREEDS TURMOIL; ANTWERP DIAMOND SALES SOFT**

Continuation of the news of a crack-down on labor practices and tax avoidance by Antwerp cutters.

**PHILLY 'DIAMOND KING' FILES FOR CHAPTER 11 PROTECTION**

Ronald Perlstein is the jeweler who was charged with misrepresenting the quality and weight of diamonds sold over several years

Page 27

**TROUBLE IN ANTWERP, BOMBAY AIDS ISRAELI DIAMOND BOOM**

Related to Antwerp cutters' tax problems and Bombay's social unrest.

Page 33

**15 KEY WAYS TO SPOT A CREDIT-CARD THIEF**

Must reading for anyone taking these cards from the public.

Page 40

**LKI CLAIMS INFRINGEMENT BY GOODMAN AND SEARS**

Those little numbers that Lazare Kaplan and GIA put on the girdle of diamonds is protected by a patent. This is Kaplan's position in trying to prevent Sears from marketing a similar product sold by I.B. Goodman.

Page 41

**AGS CONCLAVE SYLLABUS INCLUDES BIZ SEMINARS**

Notes on the American Gem Society's annual membership meeting.

Page 48

**WHICH WILL BE FIRST--STATE LAWS OR FTC RULES?**

Coverage of AGA's and AGTA's Tucson debates on gemstone treatment.

Page 54

**CHELSEA FILTER HELPS ID SAPPHIRE, JADE AND AQUA**

By AGA's Tony Bonanno et. al. Must reading.

Page 55

**HARD-TO-IDENTIFY SYNTHETIC EMERALD HITS MARKET**

Interesting article on the hydrothermal Biron synthetic emerald. Not the final word but a good introduction.

Page 62

**SPECTRUM AWARDS**

AGTA's award winning jewelry designs featuring colored stones.

Page 68

**P&G's GEM PROMOTION IS NO TREASURE: DEALERS**

Proctor and Gamble is putting cheap "gems" in its products again. The implication is that Proctor is going to tell the public that these "gems" are worth a minimum of \$5.00 and as much as \$500.00. The article quotes a source as saying they bought mostly garnets at \$0.11 each.

NOTE: I bought two boxes of Bounce fabric softener containing these 'gems' just to see what they looked like (and because I wanted soft clothes) and the garnets were absolute trash! Dark reddish brown, very included and with very poor cutting. They would have gone into my fish tank if I had had a fish. My jeweler though, got a garnet in some soap and it was really a very nice stone which very easily would sell for \$5.00 retail.... Dana

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**ADVERTISING PRIMER**

Help with retailer's advertising.

## DIAMOND REPORT MAY 1986

by ELIE KASSAB

### 1-WORLD'S LARGEST SYNTHETIC DIAMOND:

The world's largest synthetic diamond has been produced by the national institute for research at Tsukuba, Japan.

The diamond weighs 3.5 carats. It was produced by heating 10 carats of carbon at a temperature of 1,500 degrees centigrade under 14,000 tons of atmospheric pressure.

No indication yet of the clarity and color of the stone, but at the above conditions, the cost per carat is probably 11-12 times as much as the natural material.

2-The Japanese diamond companies have been left with diamond inventories which are too expensive to unload due to the drop of the price of the dollar and the rise of the yen. This can translate in some companies getting into financial trouble.

In contrary to the image that the Japanese consumers have, they do not buy fairly expensive jewelry due to high taxes on purchases. They buy mainly smaller goods of higher quality. The proliferation of door to door sales and small jewelry shops has led to the closure of some of the big name jewelry stores.

I wonder what could happen in this country.

3-Market demand in the USA is getting stronger. DeBeers experienced a 13% rise in sales in '85 compared to '84.

## NEED MORE REPORTERS

The Publications Committee is still looking for a few more reporters for the newsletters. At this time we need a member to report on the Colored Stone Market (As Elie Kassab is now reporting on the Diamond Market) and someone to report on the Metals Market. If you would be interested in either of these departments, please contact Dana Richardson at 1615 So. Foothill Drive, Salt Lake City, Utah 84108.

## REPORTERS DOING A GREAT JOB!

Many thanks to our reporters for the wonderful information they are providing for this newsletter and for the last issue of the Cornerstone. It is very much appreciated! Keep up the good work.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRMAN BRENDA JOYCE CALDWELL

The response to the questionnaire sent out by the Public Relations office has been excellent, however, most of you failed to include the names and addresses of your local newspapers. Without that information we cannot issue press releases to be published in your cities. If you are one of the "guilty" ones, please drop me a note with this info and a press release will be sent to your local papers.

In reviewing the returned questionnaires, I find that the membership of the A.G.A. is a highly educated, hard working, goal oriented group of people. With that kind of energy among us we certainly can be proud. The key to our success as an organization is communication. These questionnaires are being compiled in order to form interesting press releases. Please be patient with us as we are short handed here and making money is important so that we can pay the rent and buy new typewriter ribbons in order to get the PR work done.

I enjoyed reading about all of you. I hope I will be able to meet every single one of you at our 1987 conference. IT WILL BE SMASHING! BJ

## AGA GETS MORE EXPOSURE IN THE CONSUMER PRESS

The following is a copy of an Article which appeared in the Kiplinger Magazine, Changing Times. This is an excellent article and an example of getting exposure in the consumer press. We will continue our efforts in sending releases to the consumer press. Neil Cohen

# APPRAISING THE APPRAISER

*Need to know what your valuables are worth?  
Look for an appraiser who knows his stuff.*

**M**OST PEOPLE OCCASIONALLY need the services of someone to tell them the current worth of their personal valuables. The items might be jewelry, sterling silver flatware, fine furniture, paintings, or a stamp or coin collection.

You'll probably need this service if you're upgrading your homeowners insurance with a fine-arts rider and need an itemized list of valuables. Maybe you want to dispose of an old family possession and want to know what it's worth before you donate it to charity or offer it for sale to the public or a dealer. Or you're revising your will and want to bequeath valuables of roughly equal value to each of your children. Perhaps a relative has just died, naming you as executor, and you need an inventory and appraisal of the estate.

Even if there isn't a need at the moment, everyone with things of value should get an appraisal and keep it current every few years, especially in times of rapid appreciation in tangible assets.

Many insurance companies require an appraisal, especially before they insure jewelry over a certain limit. If articles are lost or stolen, you'll need proof of value for insurance or tax-loss claims.

Finding a top-notch appraiser isn't always easy. Just about anyone can use the title of appraiser. Membership in a major appraisers society is a good credential but not a guarantee of skill or integrity. Nor does the lack of a certificate necessarily indicate a lack of expertise.

Check the appraiser's reputation in the community. Ask for recommendations from people who frequently use appraisers—bankers, auction houses, antiques dealers. An appraiser should be prepared to provide information on his or her qualifications and major clients.

Your insurance agent may recommend an appraiser, but note that some agents steer clients to appraisers who

inflate valuations, causing the client to buy too much insurance. An inflated estimate could bring you an insurance windfall if you have a loss, but the odds are you won't. In the meantime, you'll pay for more insurance than you need.

The appraiser you choose must have a special knowledge of the goods you have. No one is an expert in everything, and when you're paying by the hour, you don't want to finance the appraiser's education in an arcane field that another appraiser knows cold.

If an appraiser tells you the fee will be a percentage of the value placed on your possessions, look elsewhere. That's an inherent conflict of interest and widely viewed as unethical.

Hourly rates or flat fees are considered fairest. Good appraisers know that some items of vast value can be identified and appraised very quickly, for a modest fee. Sometimes researching an obscure item of modest value can take a lot of time and trouble, for which the appraiser deserves compensation.

Prices vary greatly, across regions and specialties of goods. Generally, however, hourly fees range from \$35 to \$100. Flat fees may range from \$35 to \$50 for the first item, with an additional charge of \$10 to \$30 per extra item.

Do you have qualms about leaving your valuables with an appraiser? You probably can find one who will do the work in your presence or at least begin the work at your house and then take notes and a photo back to the office to complete the job.

Be sure to provide the appraiser with any documents that relate to your possessions, such as sales receipts, history of previous ownership, jewelry certification papers, descriptions, estate evaluations or previous appraisal reports. They can save a lot of time.

The appraisal report should include a complete and scholarly description of each article, using the key characteristics and jargon appropriate to the category of goods. In furniture, for example, it should include period, style, wood, embellishments and condition, with any restoration noted. For jewelry, details include size, cut, weight, color and quality.

Make sure the appraiser knows the purpose of the appraisal—whether for insurance, estate evaluation, sale or donation. This will determine how he or she will value the items, especially if the issue is replacement at a retail price or sale at a wholesale price, which is sometimes only half of retail.

## WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR

This brings up one of the cardinal rules of dealing with an appraiser: Don't sell your possessions to the person who did the appraisal. Many dealers in antiques, jewelry and fine arts appraise on the side, often putting them in conflict of interest.

Unethical appraiser-dealers will lowball the value of an item and then offer to buy it at that price. Or sometimes they will set up the seller by unreasonably overvaluing a few insignificant items, then steal the masterpiece in the home for a very low price. If you insist on selling to an appraiser/dealer, get a second opinion.

Also be aware that a jeweler of less-than-sterling character who sells you something might include, at no additional cost, a bloated appraisal to make you think you're getting a bargain. One clue is vagueness in the appraisal. If you have suspicions, get a second opinion before you buy the piece.

Don't be shocked if a current appraisal comes in lower than the original purchase price or an earlier appraisal. The old appraisal may have been in error, or the item may have been misrepresented in type or quality when purchased.

Even items of enduring worth can go down in market value, for several reasons. For example, the buyer may have purchased an item at the height of fashion, after which its popularity declined. This is sometimes the case with antique furniture and art. Perhaps the buyer paid too much compared to its market value in the first place.

Sterling silver appraisals done several years ago, when the Hunt brothers drove up the price of silver with their speculations, will be far higher than a current appraisal. The same is true of some gold items whose value lies in their content, not artistic merit.

Below are several of the organizations that conduct appraiser certification programs. They'll send you information about appraisals if you call or write.

■ ACCREDITED  
GEMOLOGISTS ASSOCIATION

99 Pratt St.  
Hartford, Conn. 06103  
(203) 278-1800

Full members with three years of extensive experience or five years of normal experience can qualify for the group's master gemologist appraiser designation by taking three days of instruction, passing tests and submitting three acceptable appraisals. They must be recertified every three years.

■ AMERICAN GEM SOCIETY

5901 W. Third St.  
Los Angeles, Calif. 90036  
(213) 936-4367

Composed of jewelers, this group confers the title of certified gemologist appraiser on those candidates who pass GIA-administered courses and submit satisfactory appraisals. They must pass an annual appraisal exam. When writing, ask for a consumer appraisal kit.

■ AMERICAN SOCIETY OF APPRAISERS

P. O. Box 17265  
Washington, D. C. 20041  
(202) 620-3838

The ASA certifies all types of appraisers and classifies them as associate, which requires paying dues; member, which requires two years of appraisal experience; and senior member, which requires five. Candidates must pass oral and written examination to attain either of the latter designations.

■ APPRAISERS  
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

60 E. 42nd St.  
New York, N.Y. 10165  
(212) 867-9775

To be considered for membership, an appraiser must have been in business five years and submit three recent appraisals for review by an 18-person membership committee.

■ THE GEMOLOGICAL  
INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

1616 Stewart St.  
Santa Monica, Calif. 90404  
(213) 829-2991

The GIA offers an appraisal seminar on identifying, evaluating, classifying and marketing precious stones and on related subjects, with emphasis on judging quality and authenticity. ■

# INSURANCE INFORMATION

*Advocates, organizations, books and more.*

■ INSURANCE INFORMATION INSTITUTE

110 William St.  
New York, N.Y. 10038  
(800) 221-4954

Do you have a question about how to file a claim or what to do if you have a car accident? Has your insurance company been dragging its feet on a claim, and would you like to know how to prod the beast into action?

The Insurance Information Institute, a nonprofit educational organization supported by the property and casualty insurance industries, operates a toll-free hot line for questions or complaints about property or casualty insurance, agents or agencies.

The institute has consumer contacts with 40 major property and casualty companies. If you have a problem with a company, the institute will refer you to its consumer representative or, lacking that, your state's insurance department.

If you're looking for a property or casualty insurance company, the institute will refer you to the companies that sell the kind of insurance you want, but it won't recommend one over another.

The institute says its hot line is somewhat limited in rate information and advises that you first shop around with local agents for that.

Although the institute can advise you on whether you have the right type or amount of insurance for your needs, it can't offer a sophisticated evaluation.

A series of information brochures published by the institute includes: *How to File an Insurance Claim*, *Home Insurance Basics*, *Auto Insurance Basics*, *Tenants Insurance Basics*, and *Insurance for the Car and Insurance for the Home*, which are more in-depth. Single copies are free to the public.

■ NATIONAL INSURANCE  
CONSUMER ORGANIZATION

121 N. Payne  
Alexandria, Va. 22314  
(703) 549-8050

NICO is a consumer advocacy and insurance information organization independent of the industry.

It publishes two guides to insurance that you might want to consult: *A Buyer's Guide to Insurance* (\$2 with a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope) and *Taking the Bite Out of Insurance* (see below).

NICO also publishes *Consumer Alert* newsletters (\$1 per newsletter). These newsletters discuss various insurance topics, such as flight and travel insurance, credit life insurance, and how to shop for insurance.

It also will do cost comparisons, for a \$25 fee, of complex life insurance policies of various kinds (see page 104).

LIFE INSURANCE

■ AMERICAN COUNCIL  
OF LIFE INSURANCE

1850 K St. N.W., Sixth Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
(800) 423-8000

Before shopping, it's good to know what you're looking for. If you're in need of definition or explanation of types of insurance, give this 800 hot line a call.

Don't expect advice on what type of insurance to purchase, but you can request different companies' financial ratings, as compiled by the A.M. Best Company (see page 103). These ratings give an idea of an insurance company's financial soundness and debt load.

The hot line and the associations don't deal with complaints regarding agents or companies.

The council also can help find a lost life insurance policy. Send a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope to its Policy Search Department. You will receive a questionnaire about the insured person, which when completed and returned, the council will circulate to more than 100 insurance companies. The companies will check to see if they have a policy in that name. There is no charge for this service.



## NEW CHAIRMEN APPOINTED

David Atlas, MGA, ASA has accepted the appointment as Chairman of the AGA's Ethics and Grievance Committee.

John P. Lauri, MGA has taken Davids place as the Chairman of the Member Benefits committee.

We wish both of these men luck in their new positions, and ask you all to give them help wherever possible!

## PLEA FOR DATA

by ROBERT ROSENBLATT and  
RODNEY WAGNER

AGANET is off and running and we are thrilled by your reviews and response. It seems we are growing faster than we expected and we are using up data faster than we can post it. We need reporters! If you would be interested in joining the communication committee and being a reporter for AGANET, please let us know. We need general news articles, book reports, industry trends, event calendars, and everything a good news publication should have. WE NEED YOUR HELP! Don't worry about your speed or computer skill level. You can write it in your spare time and "dump" it to the board later. If you have any spare time, join us! For our library, we need:

GEM DATA FILES

WE ARE TRYING TO ACCUMULATE GEM DATA FILES ON THE FOLLOWING:

1. AMETHYST
2. AQUAMARINE
3. BERYL (GOLDEN)
4. CHRYSOBERYL (YELLOW & GREEN)
5. CITRINE
6. EMERALD
7. GARNET (ALMANDITE & PYROPE)
8. GARNET (DEMANTOID)
9. GARNET (RHODOLITE)
10. GARNET (SPESSARTITE, MALAYA, & HESSONITE)
11. GARNET (TSAVORITE)
12. MORGANITE
13. PERIDOT
14. RUBY
15. SAPPHIRE (BLUE)

16. SAPPHIRE (ORANGE & GOLDEN)
17. SAPPHIRE (PADPARADSCHA)
18. SAPPHIRE (PINK & PURPLE)
19. SPINEL (BLUE TO PURPLE)
20. SPINEL (RED TO REDDISH-ORANGE)
21. TANZANITE
22. TOPAZ (BLUE)
23. TOPAZ (IMPERIAL)
24. TOPAZ (PINK)
25. TOPAZ (ORANGE-YELLOW-BROWN)
26. TOPAZ (GREENISH YELLOW, CHROME GREEN, BLUEISH-GREEN, BLUE)
27. TOURMALINE (RED, PURPLE, PINK)
28. TOURMALINE (ORANGE, YELLOW, BROWN)

THIS IS THE INITIAL LIST AND FEEL FREE TO ADD ANY GEMSTONES YOU WOULD LIKE TO REVIEW. THE GEM DATA FILES SHOULD CONTAIN ALL THE INFORMATION A PERSON NEEDS TO IDENTIFY A GEMSTONE AND ITS TREATMENTS OR SYNTHETICS. THE FINAL FORMAT FOR THESE DOWNLOADS HASN'T BEEN SET SO IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS PLEASE LEAVE THEM IN THE AGA GEM FILE.

## JEWELERS GUIDE TO GEMSTONE HANDLING AND APPROXIMATE WEIGHT CHART FOR COLORED STONES

While in New York on business Howard Rubin, a former member of AGA and developer of Gem Dialogue, gave me this brochure on Gemstone Handling and Weight Approximates. He gave AGA permission to print it in this publication. Howard wrote this a few years ago and said parts have been printed in the trade press. I thought it was good and our members would appreciate it. Howard, as you see, is a Vice President with Leer Gem. Thanks to Howard for sharing this information with us. Neil Cohen

LEER GEM LTD.

*Importers of Precious Stones*

TELEX: 421212 FAB

CABLE ADDRESS: FABRIKMAX

600 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10020

(212) 757-7753 - 7754

## JEWELERS GUIDE TO GEMSTONE HANDLING

Consider us your personal gem consultant. Feel free to call us. We want to help.

### Explanation and notes on chart sections:

**Section A: Hardness** refers to the resistance of stones to being scratched. All steel tools may scratch stones with a hardness of 6 or less. The hard blue rubber wheels used to trim prongs during setting will scratch all stones except diamond. The softer gray pumice wheels should be used for colored stones above the hardness of 5. Use no abrasive wheels with stones under 5 in hardness.

**Toughness** refers to the danger of stones being damaged by the various processes used in the manufacturing and handling of stone set jewelry. A rating of excellent to good means that the stone will be safe if reasonable care is exercised. A rating of fair to poor means that special care must be taken or the process avoided entirely.

**Section B: Setting** . . . These caution points apply to all setting jobs.

1. Any stone with a knife edge girdle is dangerous to set. Pressure of prongs should be only above or below the girdle edge, never directly against it.
2. Examine stones carefully with a loupe for cracks or flaws on or near the points where prongs might be pressed. Avoid excess pressure in tightening such stones. If stones are too translucent, use a pen light to help spot flaws.

**Section C: Polishing** involves the use of abrasive powders.

1. Rouge is a very fine abrasive and may be used with all stone jewelry except pearls.
2. Tripoli will scratch or dull the polish of stones with a hardness of 5 or less.
3. Stones listed as poor should be set after jewelry has been prepared and polished.

**Section D: Repairs and Sizing:**

1. Thorough cleaning of all jewelry needing repairs must be done.
2. Stones should be removed if repairs are required near the stone.
3. Stones which may be dyed or oiled will be damaged by such heat.
4. If repairs are made with stones set (as in sizing) be sure the stone has cooled before rinsing or pickling in acid. The center of the stone stays hot longer than the outside and time must be allowed for it to cool. If you must rinse while the piece is still hot, then do it in hot water. The rule is no fast temperature changes.
5. On sizing jobs with the stones set, the stone may be protected by keeping it upside down in a water filled bottle cap while soldering the bottom of the shank.

**Section E: Boiling:**

1. Never put a colored stone directly into boiling water. If the stone can take heat well, then put it in cold water and bring to a boil slowly.
2. Rinse in a hot water rinse if stone is still warm or in a warm water rinse if stone has cooled for a while. Again the rule is no fast temperature changes.
3. Do not boil rubies or emeralds. Many of these are "oiled" and they will lose color if boiled. Such stones should be removed before the jewelry is boiled and reset afterwards.
4. When cleaning such jewelry pieces, use a soft brush in lukewarm water with a mild soap or detergent.

**Section F: Steaming:**

1. Do not steam while stone is cold. Rinse first in warm water, not hot.
2. When steaming do not hold stone with tweezers. Hold only the mounting, not the stone.

**Section G: Ultrasonic:**

1. Solution should be kept warm if used as a cleaner after polishing.
2. Stones which have been heat treated are usually under strain and may crack in the ultrasonic process. Such stones are listed as poor and should be cleaned as listed under section E:4.

**Section H: Acids:**

1. Acids are used in the pickling and the plating processing. Again avoid fast temperature changes. Keep plating baths warm and rinse with warm water after using.
2. Do not use with stones which are organic or dyed. Stones listed as poor will be harmed by acids. They should be removed before repairing jewelry in which they are set.
3. Porous stones are also affected by acids. Examples are turquoise, malachite, azurite, and shell cameos.

If you have any questions about handling which may not be covered here, call

(212) 757-7753 - 7754

*This chart is meant as a reference guide to be considered when working with stone set jewelry. It will enable the jeweler to weigh the risks involved when taking in jobs for repair, remounting, or appraising.*



APPROXIMATE WEIGHT CHART FOR FACETED COLORED STONES

Weights are based upon the specific gravity of quartz (2.66).  
Make appropriate changes for stones of higher or lower specific gravity.

OVAL	Approx. Wt.	OCTAGON	Approx. Wt.	ROUND	Approx. Wt.	PEAR	Approx. Wt.	NAVETTE	Approx. Wt.
5x3	.22	5x3	.25	4mm	.25	5x3	.21	6x3	.20
6x4	.40	6x4	.50	4½mm	.35	6x4	.40	8x4	.50
7x5	.80	7x5	1.10	5mm	.55	7x5	.70	10x5	1.00
8x6	1.20	8x6	1.50	5½mm	.70	8x5	.80	12x6	1.70
9x7	1.75	9x7	2.30	6mm	.90	9x6	1.35	14x7	2.50
10x8	2.50	10x8	3.00	6½mm	1.15	10x7	2.00	15x7	3.00
11x9	3.30	11x9	4.30	7mm	1.50	12x8	3.00	16x8	4.40
12x10	4.50	12x10	5.40	7½mm	1.70	13x9	3.65	18x9	7.00
14x10	5.50	14x10	6.60	8mm	2.05			20x10	11.00
14x12	7.00	14x12	8.40	8½mm	2.25				
16x12	8.50	16x12	10.75	9mm	3.00				
18x13	12.00	18x13	13.75	9½mm	3.20				
20x15	15.00	20x15	18.00	10mm	3.50				
				10½mm	3.75				
				11mm	4.00				
				11½mm	5.00				

Add or subtract 5 - 10 % for Heavy cut or Shallow cut stones

Add or subtract appropriate % factor for stones of higher or lower specific gravity.

These weights are an approximate estimation based on averages taken from parcels over a period of years. Varieties in cutting styles from different parts of the world will cause these averages to vary at times.

The weights given here are meant only as a guide and should not be used when exact appraisal requirements are needed.

**LEER GEM LTD.**

*Importers of Precious Stones*

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STONE	HARDNESS & TOUGHNESS (read section A)	REACTION TO SETTING (read section B)	REACTION TO POLISHING (read section C)	REACTION TO SIZING AND REPAIRS WHICH REQUIRE TORCH (read section D)	REACTION TO BOILING (read section E)
DIAMOND	H 10 T good	very good	excellent	good	excellent
RUBY AND SAPPHIRE (Corundum)	H 9 T very good	very good	excellent	Ruby: good Sapphires may lose color when heated	good
CATSEYE & ALEXANDRITE (chrysoberyl)	H 8½ T very good	very good	excellent	good-fair, remove if repairs are made near stone	good
SPINEL	H 8 T good-fair	very good-fair	very good	good-fair, remove if repairs are made near stone	good-fair
PRECIOUS TOPAZ	H 8 T poor	fair-poor; take care stone cleaves easily	good	poor; stones may crack or lose color	poor
EMERALD (beryl)	H 7½-8 T poor	poor; stones usually flawed and under strain	fair; do not apply heavy pressure	poor; stones should never be heated	Poor; should be cleaned in lukewarm water only.
AQUAMARINE (beryl)	H 7½-8 T good-fair	good-fair	good	poor; stone may change color with heat	fair-poor; avoid fast temperature changes.
TOURMALINE	H 7-7½ T good-fair	good-fair	good	fair-poor	fair
GARNET incl. RHODOLITE & TSAVORITE	H 6½-7½ T good-fair	good-fair; flawed stones are under strain	good	fair-poor; play safe, remove expensive stone before repair	fair-poor
RUTILE & FABULITE (Synthetic)	H 6½-7 T poor-very poor	very poor; will take very little pressure	very poor; use very light pressure or set after polishing	very poor; stones will crack with heat	poor; stone may crack
AMETHYST & CITRINE (quartz)	H 6½-7 T good	good	good	fair; color may change with heat	fair
PERIDOT	H 6½-7 T poor-very poor	poor; facet edges chip easily	poor	very poor; remove stone before repairs or sizing are made	poor; avoid extreme temperatures
TANZANITE (zoisite)	H 6½ T poor	poor	fair (avoid heavy pressure)	very poor; remove before repairs are made	poor
JADEITE & NEPHRITE (jade)	H 6-7 T Excel.	excellent	fair; tripoli may damage polish on stone. Use only rouge	Poor; no repairs near stone	Good; heat may discolor dyed material
KUNZITE & HIDDENITE (spodumene)	H 6-7 T very poor	poor	fair	Poor; stones will lose color	Poor; may crack if boiled
ZIRCON	H 5-6½ T poor	poor	fair	poor	poor
MOONSTONE (feldspar)	H 6-6½ T fair-poor	good-fair	good-fair	poor	poor
OPAL - Also doublets & triplets	H 5½-6½ T very poor	poor	poor (avoid heavy pressure)	very poor; remove before repairs are made	Poor; boiling will crack stone, triplets separate
HEMATITE	H 5-6½ T good-fair	good-fair	good-fair	poor	good
TURQUOISE	H 5-6 T good-poor	fair	fair	very poor; stone will explode with heat	poor; may lose color
LAPIS LAZULI (lazurite)	H 5-6 T fair-poor	fair	fair-poor; tripoli will harm polish on stone	poor	fair-poor; some dyed stones will lose color
SHELL CAMEO	H 3½ T poor	poor; will crack with excess pressure	poor; polish jewelry lightly with very little pressure	Cannot take heat or repair. Will show burn marks	Color will fade if boiled
CORAL	H 3-4 T good-poor	good	poor; use rouge only	very poor; remove stone before repair	poor; may lose color
PEARLS & MOBS	H 2½-4½ T fair-poor	fair; mobs take pressure poorly	poor; will affect luster badly	poor; pearls will burn	poor; will lose color tint. Mobs separate
IVORY	H 2½-3 T fair	fair	fair-poor; use light pressure	poor; heat will cause stone to shrink	fair-poor; dyed pieces may lose color
AMBER	H 2-2½ T poor	very poor; will scratch easily	poor	very poor; stone will melt or burn	very poor; do not boil

REACTION TO STEAMING (read section F)	REACTION TO ULTRASONIC (read section G)	REACTION TO ACIDS, BLEACHING & PLATING (read section H)	COMMENTS (add your own comments based upon your own experience)
excellent	excellent	excellent	
good	good	good	Watch for oiled stones. Do not heat.
good	good	good	
good	good	good	
poor	fair	good	Any heating may discolor or crack stone.
poor	fair	poor, stones may crack or lose oil if solutions are too hot.	Avoid all heat. Chatham and Gilson synthetics react the same as natural stones.
fair	fair	good	
fair	good	good-fair	May change color with heat during repairs.
fair	good	fair-poor, acids may affect polish on stone.	
poor	fair-poor	fair	Reacts poorly under heat and pressure.
fair	good	good-fair	
fair-poor	fair	poor	Should not get much heat or pressure.
poor	poor	fair	Will not take much heat or pressure.
good	good	poor, acid will affect polish on stone.	
poor	fair	fair	Heat may fade color.
poor	fair	fair	Does not take heat well.
fair	fair	fair-poor	
poor	fair-poor	poor	Opals should be examined by shining a light through the stone to see if there are cracks. Do not process cracked stones.
good	good	poor, acids attack stones.	
fair	fair-poor	very poor, will dissolve in acids.	Takes heat and pressure poorly. Color may fade in untreated stones.
good	good-fair	poor, will change color. Acid will attack Pyrite & Calcite inclusions.	Many lapis are dyed. Colors may change with heat or acids.
fair-poor	fair	very poor, will dissolve in acids.	Cameos made of shell are very delicate and will not take much heat or pressure.
fair	fair	very poor, will dissolve in acids.	Much coral is dyed and will be affected by heat.
fair	fair	very poor, will dissolve in acids.	Watch for spot in nacre which may be hollow underneath.
good	fair	fair	Many imitations available, all react differently.
poor-fair	poor	very poor, will dissolve in acids.	Many imitations will react the same.

# FIRST EDITION AGANET NEWS

by ROBERT ROSENBLATT and  
RODNEY WAGNER

ISSUE #1

06/30/86

Well, here is the first issue of AGANEWS. It has been a while in coming but AGANET is here. All of the functions are being modified and changed as the input from the users has directed. I hope the board we have now is usable and friendly. I know a lot of you are new to computers and feel intimidated by them. Have no fear on AGANET you can't really hurt it if you watch the directions. If you do hurt it we might lose a message or two. The board has two functions. The first is to provide a communication tool for our organization. The second function is to teach you how to use a computer as a tool in your gemological lab. This will give you a certain amount of computer expertise. Remember, they are teaching our 5 year olds how to use these. The board is a very open format. We can change it to suit our needs. If you have an idea about how we can help you with a function you would like to see on this board leave me a message in SYSOP board. Well let me show you this electronic paper.

Like all papers we will have an editor-in-chief. I think Dana already has that job. Next we need our reporters. We have different departments on this paper and each one needs a reporter. The pay is great and the fringe benefits, including the key to the secret files are fantastic. Neil Cohen is in charge of the pay and Robert Rosenblatt has charge of fringe benefits.

The Departments are:

PRESIDENTS CHAT-NEIL'S CORNER  
INDUSTRY-REPORTS ON CURRENT NEWS IN OUR  
INDUSTRY  
RESEARCH-NEW TECHNIQUES  
SYNTHETICS-CURRENT AVAILABILITY AND  
DATA  
EVENTS-CURRENT MEETINGS AND DATES  
GUEST VISITORS-RECRUIT GUEST TO THE  
AGANEWS

AND MORE IMPORTANTLY

\_\_\_\_\_  
YOUR NAME  
\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME YOUR DEPARTMENT  
\_\_\_\_\_  
WHEN YOU CAN START

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NEIL'S CHAT

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We welcome our president to this great occasion and hopefully the next time you read this paper it will contain an article by our president. We will save these chats and if you miss one you can download Neil's chats. Newspapers come out daily and I know that is a hard schedule to keep. But if you can Neil we would like timely chats. If you want more stars around your article let Dana know.

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EDITOR

This is Dana's paper and she will need a lot of help in maintaining an effective current publication. If each time you log on the board you leave a few paragraphs on a subject the board will grow. If we show our friends copies of the Gem Data files, Treatment Papers, and other downloads they may also want to join us on this board. The cost of the board is the cost of a phone call. Let's make it the most informative call you can make in the gemological business. By helping us fill this board you will gain in computer knowledge, gemological knowledge and that unique knowledge that is a combination of them both. Let's all have fun on this board. It has been fun working on this board even though there were times I wish I had never seen a computer. I'm working with a great group of people and I think we can use this modern technology to benefit us all. Do download and upload often. If you have trouble with this function be patient. There are many different protocols in this computer world and we are working with all the major systems and will be able to give you instructions on how to use the upload-download features if they don't work for you. Welcome again to

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AGANET NEWS

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HOPING TO HAVE A CHAT WITH YOU REAL SOON!

ROD WAGNER  
CHAIRMAN COMMUNICATIONS

P.S. Watch for the "Update" newsletter  
on AGANET coming to you soon.

\*Rod and Robert have spent many many  
hours to make AGANET a reality, and they  
did it for you! THANK YOU ROD AND BOB!