



AGA Celebrity Gemologists Interviews

In spring of 2022, AGA launched a new series of professional development webinars called "AGA Celebrity Gemologists Interview". These interviews are open to all and free to attend (live or post-event recorded sessions); and will feature the headliners and celebrities of gemology and deliver a personal "get to know the person behind the persona" experience.

AGA's goal of hosting these interviews is to deliver and share the extraordinary stories of our "celebrities gemologists" and to inspire developing interest in gemology, as a profession and career.

LIVE INTERVIEW July 18, 2022
CELEBRITY John Koivula
INTERVIEWED BY Richard Hughes, Lotus Gemology

Gemological Celebrity: John Koivula

John Koivula joined the GIA in 1976. He has spent more than sixty years studying and photographing the microworld of gemstones and has published numerous articles and notes on inclusions in gemstones and related topics. John is a contributor to several books including the American Geological Institutes Glossary of Geology, Robert Webster's Gems, Geologica, a book on crustal landforms, and the GIA's Diamond Dictionary. Mr. Koivula is co-author with Dr. E. Gübelin of the Photoatlas of Inclusions in Gemstones, Volumes 1, 2 and 3, and the author of The MicroWorld of Diamonds.

John holds university degrees in both geology and chemistry, the gemological credentials: G.G., C.G., F.G.A., and he was awarded fellowship in the Royal Microscopical Society (FRMS). He is an honorary life member of the Finnish Gemmological Society and the Gemmological Association of Great Britain and was named as one of the 64 most influential people of the 20th century in the jewelry industry by Jewelers' Circular Keystone Magazine. His awards include GIA's Richard T. Liddicoat Award for Distinguished Achievement, the Robert M. Shipley and Richard T. Liddicoat awards from the American Gem Society, the Scholarship Foundation Award from the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, and the Antonio C. Bonanno Award for excellence in gemology in by the international Accredited Gemologists Association (AGA).

Recently, a new mineral, johnkoivulaite, a member of the beryl group, was named in his honor. He previously worked for Cominco American as an exploration field geologist and is currently the analytical microscopist at the Gemological Institute of America, headquartered in Carlsbad, California.



John Koivula (L) and Richard Hughes (R) - longtime friends, fellow celebrity gemologists and AGA Bonanno Award Recipients.

AGA WEBINAR
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Episode - no.2

CHATBOX - NOTES AND URL LINKS

Learn more about Accredited Gemologists Association (AGA)

- AGA website: www.accreditedgemologists.org
- AGA Membership: <https://accreditedgemologists.org/application/about-AGA-membership.php>
- Contact AGA, at: exec.admin@accreditedgemologists.org

The following are related links discussed and shared in AGA webinar's "chat box" during the live recorded interview:

JOHN KOIVULA BIO

- From his MicroWorld of Gems website: <http://www.microworldofgems.com/aboutjohn.php>

JK's introduction and exposure, as a kid, to the mineral/gem world was thanks to local mineral collecting club:

- The Rock Rollers in Spokane, WA Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1054433191302705/>

An influential book to JK, that furthered his interest in the science of mineralogy and collecting:

- Frederick Poughs "Rocks and Minerals" field guide
- Pough's book is available online and free to read at: https://archive.org/details/isbn_9780395240496

Where was JK educated?

- Eastern Washington University <https://ewu.edu>
- EWU School of Geology
- EWU School of Chemistry
- <https://www.ewu.edu/cstem/>

JK simultaneously studied and received gemological diplomas from:

- Gemological Institute of America www.gia.edu
- Gemmological Association of Great Britian www.gem-a.com

Individuals who greatly influenced John, throughout his career:

- Leon Agee, Lapidary <https://internetstones.com/news/american-golden-topaz/>
Mr. Agee's famous Topaz, now displayed at the Smithsonian Institution: <https://www.si.edu/spotlight/geogallery>
- Chuck Fryer, GIA <https://www.gia.edu/gia-news-research-gia-innovators-fryer>
- Dr Edward Gubelin <https://www.gubelin.com/cms/en/gemmology/unique-expertise/eduard-josef-gubelin/>
- Richard T. Liddicoat <https://www.gia.edu/gia-news-research-gia-innovators-liddicoat>

JOHN KOIVULA PUBLICATIONS brief (too many to list)

- John's profile and publishing bio on respected scientific publishing data website: <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/John-Koivula>
- Gems & Gemology Lab Notes (John started the publication of Lab Notes for GIA's G&G) <https://www.gia.edu/gg-general-search?q=lab+notes&articlesubtype=labnotes>
- A must have for every gemological library and guides to gemstone inclusions, John's books; Photoatlas volumes 1-3
Photoatlas, Vol. 1: <http://www.microworldofgems.com/pubs/vol1.php>
Photoatlas, Vol. 2: <http://www.microworldofgems.com/pubs/vol2.php>
Photoatlas, Vol. 3: <http://www.microworldofgems.com/pubs/vol3.php>
Photomicrography <http://www.microworldofgems.com/photomicrography.php>

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John was an influential proponent to the expanded use of fiber-optic lighting, in gemology:

- A major gemological contribution, 2005 article available on Lotus Gemology's ruby-sapphire.com, by Richard Hughes:
- <https://ruby-sapphire.com/articles/791-fiber-optic-light-in-gemology-living-in-the-dark-ages>
NOTE: View article's Figure 4; image of Kashan Synthetic Ruby "rain" (discussed by John Koivula in recorded live session)

John's influential career and studies have led to the addition of a special section in GIA's G&G - called Microworld:

- <https://www.gia.edu/gg-issue-search?ggissueid=1495331942824&articlesubtype=microworld>

JK's influence in television and documentaries as a contributing expert scientist

- MacGyver – the TV series: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1399045>
- IMDB listing for Koivula's contribution to the documentary Meteorite Men <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm12501332>

Sidebar discussion: between John & host, Ricjard Hughes. A reference to:

- Lotus Gemology – Jade book by Richard Hughes
- <http://lotusgemology.com/index.php/2-uncategorised/482-jade-a-gemologist-s-guide-order-page-lotus-gemology>

John's will next be presenting a live, in-person talk on "Inclusions in Quartz", in August, this year (2022)

- 2022 East Coast Show – Mineral Fossil Show LLD (mineralshowslld.com) – to be held in Springfield, Massachusetts (USA)
- <https://www.mineralshowslld.com/fall-east-coast-show>

A new mineral! – johnkoivulite

- In 2019, John received the highest recognition bestowed by the International Mineralogical Association (IMA), who approved the naming of a new mineral species: johnkoivulite
- <https://www.gia.edu/gia-news-press/new-mineral-named-for-john-koivula>

Some of – JK's favorite books to educate on gemology and mineralogy, from a beginner to expert

- Gems by Robert Webster
- Handbook of Gem Identification by Richard T. Liddicoat
- Multiple books by John Sinkankas

A "few" of the many accolades and awards received by JK

- In 2002, received the AGA Antonio C. Bonanno Award for Excellence in Gemology
<https://accreditedgemologists.org/bonanno.php>
- In 2010, GIA honored John Koivula with the Richard T. Liddicoat Award for Distinguished Achievement
<https://southernjewelrynews.com/latest-news/on-the-move/gia-honors-john-koivula-with-the-richard-t-liddicoat-award-for-distinguished-achievement>
- In 2013, named one of the "Top 50 in Gem History", by French Association of Gemmology (along with R.T. Liddicoat):
<https://www.gia.edu/gia-news-press/french-association-gemmology-50-personalities>

WATCH RECORDING AT: [HTTPS://BIT.LY/AGAHOSTEDWEBINARS](https://bit.ly/agahostedwebinars)

RECORDED LIVE: JULY 2022