

GEM NEWS

John I. Koivula, *Editor*

DIAMONDS

Australia. Ashton Joint Venture (restructured into the Argyle Diamond Mines Joint Venture and the Ashton Exploration Joint Venture) recently sold the first consignment of its rough diamond production through the Central Selling Organization. The Australian firm reportedly received approximately 1.9 million dollars for the 200,000 ct, or about US\$9.50 per carat.

The CSO starts a quarterly journal. The Central Selling Organization has just published the first issue of its new quarterly magazine *In-Sight*. This new publication, written exclusively for international sight-holders, will be a permanent feature of the CSO's official communication program. It is designed to foster closer contact between the CSO (seller) and its sight-holders (buyers). *In-Sight* was established to clarify or correct "a great deal of misinformation" that has caused considerable concern among CSO sight-holders. The main purpose of the journal will be to shed inside light on outside comment released in the general press on both the diamond industry and De Beers.

Improvement expected in the world diamond market. *Gem and Jewellery Business Intelligence* reports that since August of 1982, world diamond prices have remained somewhat stable. Falling interest rates in the United States and the expectation of a continuing worldwide economic recovery among diamond-consuming nations have instilled renewed confidence in the diamond industry, and the future outlook is optimistic.

Japan removes import duty on diamonds. Japan has dropped its import duty on cut gem diamonds. This action could result in the expansion of Japan's diamond industry and will certainly affect the number of diamonds purchased annually by the Japanese.

Le Grand Coeur d'Afrique. During a visit to West Africa in 1982, London jeweler Laurence Graff obtained a 278-ct rough diamond. After more than a year of careful study, three stones were produced from the triangular rough. The smallest was a 14.25-ct marquise. A 25.22-ct heart-shaped gem named Le Petit Coeur d'Afrique was the second largest gem produced. The largest of the three diamonds weighs 70.03 ct and is claimed by Mr. Graff to

be the world's largest heart-shaped diamond. Now called Le Grand Coeur d'Afrique, this stone will eventually carry the name of its purchaser.

COLORED STONES

India puts a ban on rough gem exports. A ban placed on the export of rough gemstones from India is apparently designed to stimulate the cutting industry in that country. In its annual report, however, the Gem and Jewelry Export Promotion Council states that it fears that such a ban might adversely affect gemstone mining activity in India.

Opal. Information released in the trade states that opal production in Australia fell by an estimated 60% in 1983 from 1982 levels. Fewer miners are currently seeking opal and more mines are now inactive. These factors, together with a lack of substantial new opal finds, have driven prices up on all grades of opal.

Yogo sapphire. Intergem Inc. of Aurora, Colorado, presently owns the sapphire deposit in Yogo Gulch, Montana. In 1983, the mine produced approximately 200,000 ct of sapphire in limited surface mining. (The percentage of this material that was of cuttable gem quality was not reported.) Once it has completed careful exploration, the company plans to put the mine into full operation.

Zoisite from Sri Lanka. Mr. Olle Fjordgren of the Göteborg (Sweden) Gemological Laboratory reports that in March of 1983, while working as director and chief gemologist of the United Gem Laboratory in Colombo, Sri Lanka, he examined a small rough stone found in Rakwana, south of Ratnapura. The gem was tentatively identified as zoisite, which would be the first time this gem has been found in Sri Lanka. The following properties were noted by Mr. Fjordgren:

Weight: 2.16 ct	Spectrum: None
Refractive index: 1.704–1.710	Pleochroism: Blue-green, light blue
Optical sign: Positive, biaxial	Specific gravity: Over 3.32
Birefringence: 0.06	Inclusions: Actinolite (?) needles
SW/LW light: Inert	

Readers interested in further information on this find

should contact Mr. Fjordgren at Göteborgs Gemnologiska Laboratorium, Foreningsgatan 4, S-411, 27 Göteborg, Sweden.

SYNTHETICS AND SIMULANTS

More information on C-Ox. X-ray diffraction studies done in GIA's Applied Gemology department on this supposedly "new" Russian diamond substitute (reported in the Fall 1983 Gem News section) show that this material has a structure identical to that of cubic zirconia. See the Lab Notes section of this issue for further information on "C-Ox."

Synthetic diamond. Using a high-energy particle accelerator, scientists at the atomic energy research establishment at Marwell, Oxfordshire, England, have succeeded in putting a layer of diamond on a preexisting diamond crystal. The accelerator fires carbon atoms into the existing structure of the diamond. Subsequent an-

nealing at 800°C allows the newly added carbon atoms to be incorporated into the diamond's lattice structure. The added layer can be detected as a slight ridge when a finger is moved over the surface. The research team says that theoretically there is no reason why this technique could not be used to build a large gem-quality diamond using a small crystal as a nucleus.

MISCELLANEOUS

New French postage stamp for collectors. The French Postal Service has just issued a stamp honoring "The Art of Jewelry." The new stamp was unveiled at the 76th Bijorhca, the French jewelry show held annually in Paris. The stamp is part of a series of stamps issued annually by the French Post Office in collaboration with the Société d'Encouragement aux Métiers d'Art to honor a chosen profession. Collectors wishing to obtain stamps for their collection may contact the French Chamber of Commerce at (212) 869-1720.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Accredited Gemologists Association to meet in Tucson. The Accredited Gemologists Association is planning a gemological conference to be held in Tucson, Arizona, concurrent with the 30th Annual Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. Topics to be covered at the conference will include the latest in synthetics, gemstone treatments, and identification techniques. The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn on South Palo Verde Blvd. and will run from Sunday, February 5, through Saturday, February 11. For further information on the conference, please contact Myriam or Tom Tashey at the AGA editorial office, 608 South Hill St., Suite 1013, Los Angeles, CA 90014, telephone (213) 623-8092.

American Gem Society to celebrate its Golden Jubilee. The American Gem Society has selected Atlanta, Georgia, as the site for its first International Conclave and its Golden Jubilee (50th year) celebration. The four-day event, which will run from March 31 to April 3, 1984, will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in

Atlanta. The theme for the 1984 International Conclave is "Developing and Promoting the Educated and Ethical Jeweler." Jewelers and gemologists from all over the world have been invited to attend. Further information concerning the 1984 Conclave can be obtained by contacting the American Gem Society, 3460 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 914, Los Angeles, CA 90010, telephone (213) 387-7375.

American Gem Trade Association to hold gemstone congress. The American Gem Trade Association will host an International Gemstone Congress in Acapulco, Mexico, from January 28 to February 1, 1984. The agenda is expected to include a discussion of synthetic gemstones and their identification, problems with treated gemstones, appraising, inter-organizational cooperation, and the formation of a new international gemstone organization. For further information, please contact the American Gem Trade Association at P.O. Box 32086, Phoenix, AZ 85064, telephone (602) 279-7171.

Tucson 1984: the 30th Annual Gem and Mineral Show. The entire city of Tucson is virtually swallowed up by this annual gem and mineral event. The 30th Tucson show will be held February 9-12, 1984, in the Tucson Convention Center, although a multitude of gem- and mineral-related activities will be going on in area hotels and motels before, after, and concurrent with the main "Tucson Show." The theme mineral this year is tourmaline, but virtually every variety of gemstone and mineral available today can be found at Tucson. A detailed report of the highlights of the Tucson show will appear in the next issue of *Gems & Gemology*.

Several pieces of finished jewelry, loose stones, and pocket watches were stolen from Kenneth Cousens' (president of Kenneth Cousens, Inc., Santa Rosa, CA) car while it was parked in downtown Los Angeles on November 3, 1983. The most noteworthy piece stolen is the large sapphire and diamond necklace that was featured on the cover of the Fall 1982

issue of *Gems & Gemology*. The center stone is a 17.22-ct antique cushion-cut sapphire. One end of the clean, medium-color stone is noticeably wider than the other.

Among the loose stones that are missing is an unusual 1.40-ct oval blue spinel from Sri Lanka. There is a rounded, dodecahedron crystal inclusion in one end of the cobalt-blue stone. Also included among the stolen goods were quantities of cut rubies, sapphires, emeralds, spinels, tourmalines, black opal, sphalerite, and lapis lazuli.

Anyone who encounters suspicious material that might represent any of these items is asked to contact Mr. Cousens at P.O. Box 3481, Santa Rosa, CA 95402, telephone (707) 538-3614.

Many fine pearls, loose gemstones, and pieces of jewelry were stolen from George Brooks, of Santa Barbara, in December. Two hundred very fine natural gray to black, round and baroque, South Sea pearls

(8½–11½ mm) were taken, as well as a large, fine collection of polished white opal and rough (very rare) and polished boulder opal. Included in the loose faceted gems were a 46-ct peridot and a superb 10-ct emerald. Dozens of pieces of jewelry set with fine colored stones were also taken; the hand-manufactured 18-karat gold settings were stamped with "Brooks."

Anyone who believes they may have seen any of these items is asked to contact Detective Chuck Kennedy of the Santa Barbara Police Department at (805) 967-5561, ext. 307. A substantial reward is being offered for information leading to the recovery of the jewels.

EXHIBITS

American Museum of Natural History—Central Park West and 79th Street, New York, NY 10024. Telephone (212) 837-1300. This mu-

seum has one of the finest displays of gemstones and gem minerals in the United States, if not the world. Recently on display at the museum were three unusual gems owned by Alan Caplan of New York that have all appeared in various issues of *Gems & Gemology*: a 667-ct Muzo emerald crystal (Gem News, Spring 1983), the 217.8-ct Mogul emerald (cover, Summer 1981), and a 15.97-ct cushion-cut ruby from the Mogok Stone Tract, Burma (this issue).

We Welcome Your Contributions.

Gems & Gemology welcomes news of exhibits, events, and other items of a gemological nature regarding diamonds, colored stones, ornamental materials, organic materials, gem minerals for collectors, precious metals, and synthetics. If you have a news item, please contact John I. Koivula, Gemological Institute of America, 1660 Stewart St., Santa Monica, CA 90404, telephone (213) 829-2991, ext. 237.

THIRD ANNUAL GEMS & GEMOLOGY MOST VALUABLE ARTICLE AWARD

This issue marks the end of the 1983 volume year of *Gems & Gemology*. Once again, we are asking you—our readers—to select the three articles that you found most interesting and potentially useful. By participating in this ballot, you not only help us acknowledge the time and effort that these authors have contributed to expanding the gemological literature, but you also give us a better idea of your needs and interests.

Your ballot is located on the insert card inside this issue. Please choose three articles from 1983 and mark them in order of numerical preference: (1) first, (2) second, (3) third. Be sure to mark *only three articles for the entire year*. Additional comments concerning the journal are welcome in the space provided. After voting, simply detach

the postcard ballot and drop it in the mail (postage pre-paid if mailed in the U.S.). Ballots must be received by March 15, 1984 to be included in the final tally.

The winning articles will be announced in the Spring 1984 issue of *Gems & Gemology*, with cash awards of \$500, \$300, and \$100, respectively, given to the authors of the three most valuable articles.

Your participation is important to the vitality of the journal. So please take just a few minutes now to let us know how you feel, and help honor the authors whose work has educated and enlightened gemological readers around the world.

Richard Liddicoat