The Lapidary Journal

DECEMBER, 1949

SPECIAL
BIRTHSTONE
NUMBER



REST ON THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT
Carved in Diorite by Donal Hord

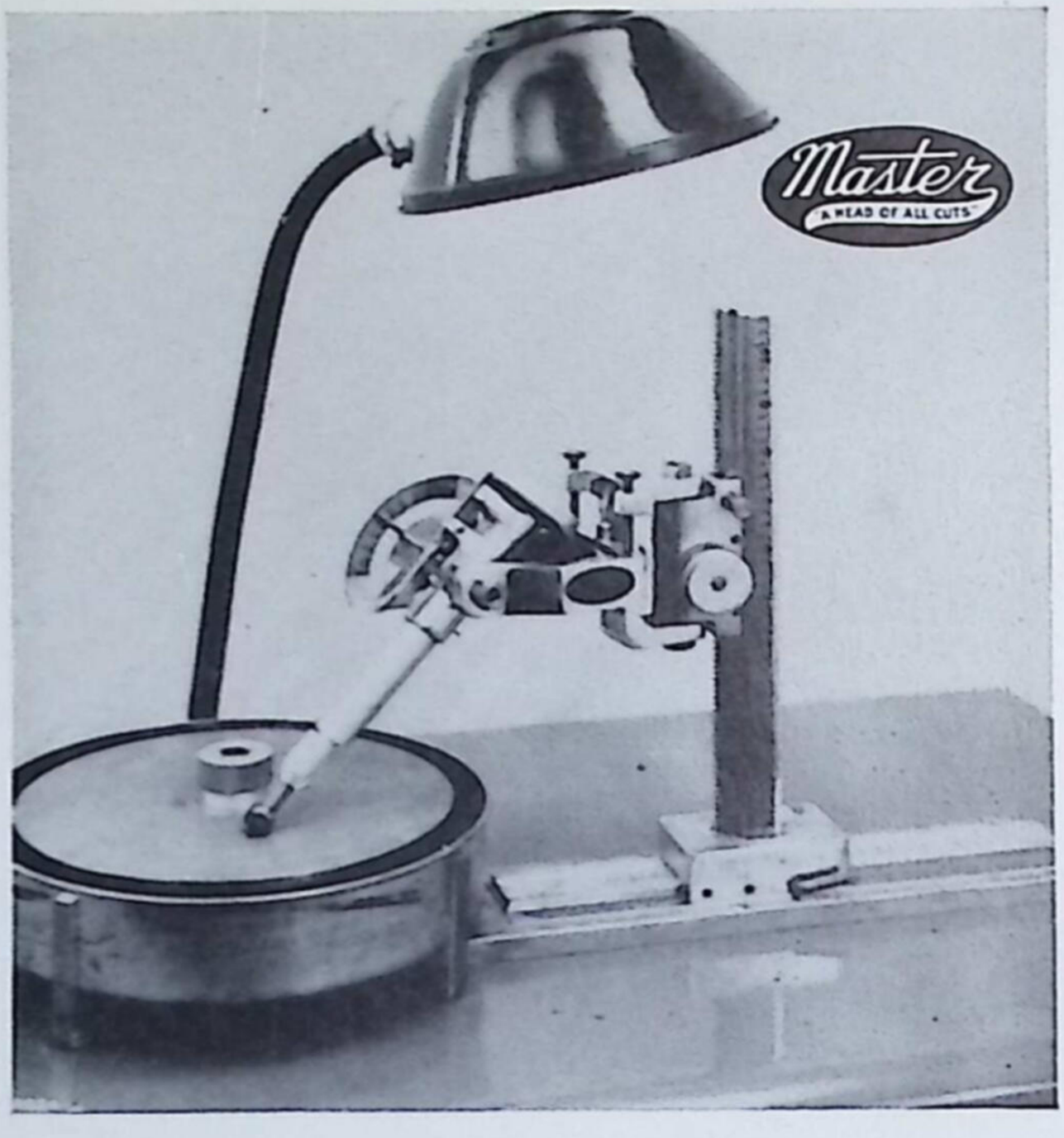
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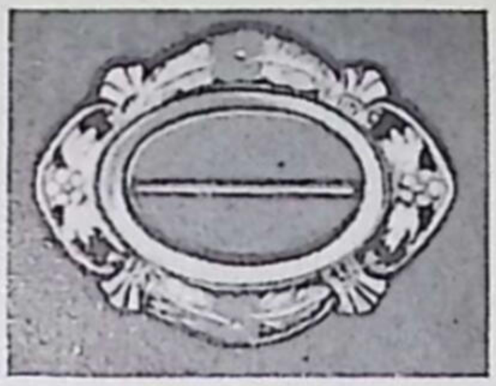
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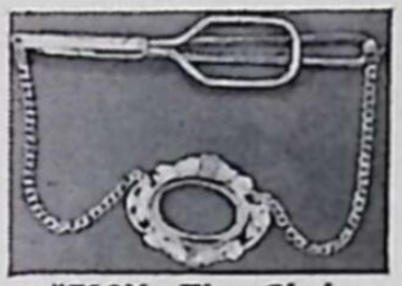
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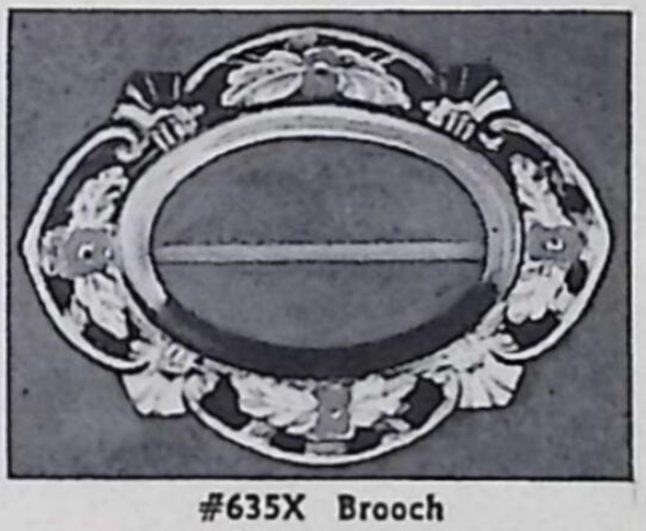
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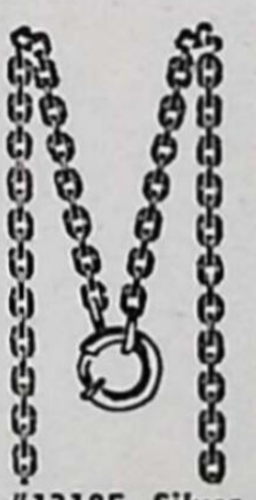
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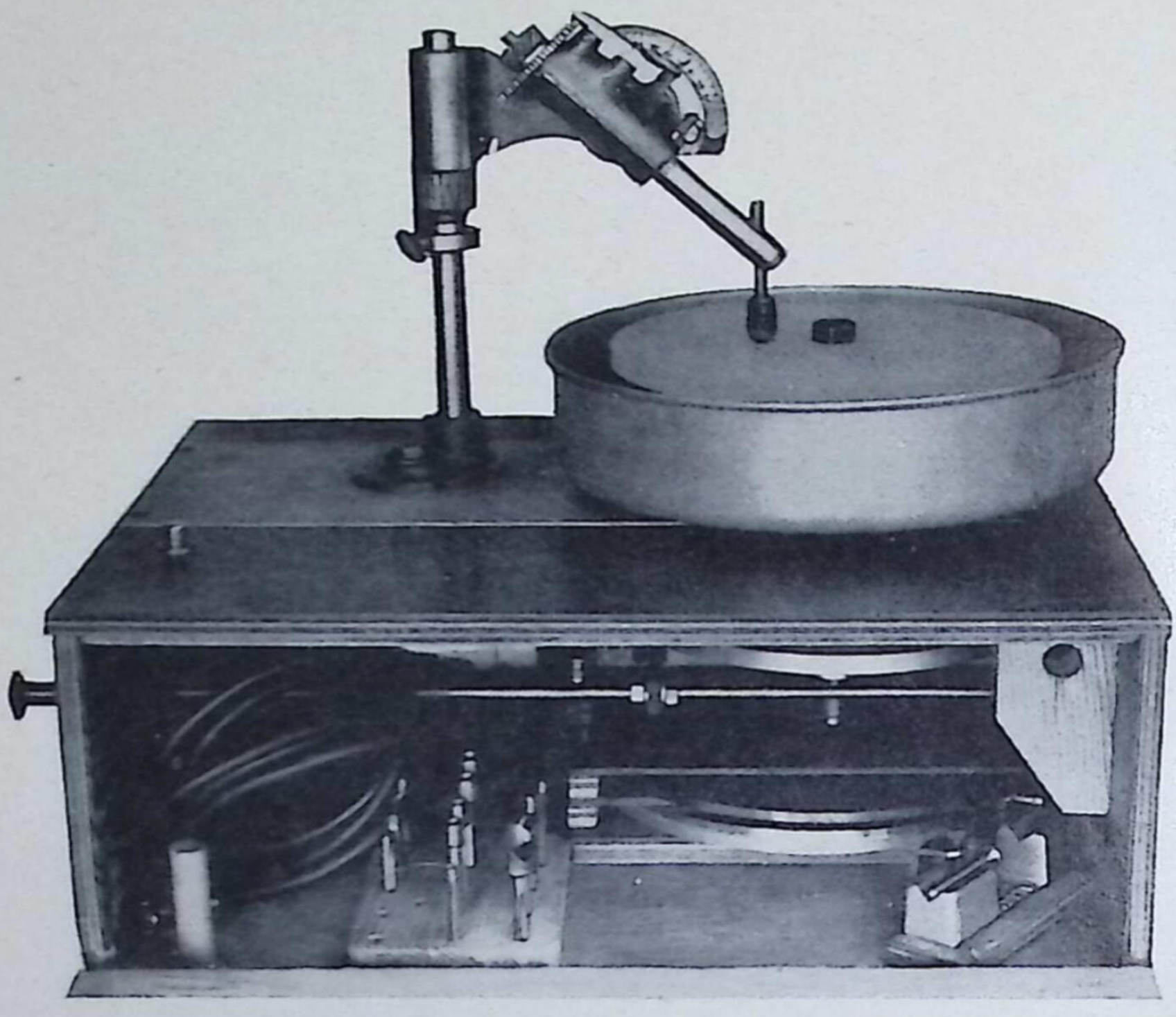
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for
THE GEM CUTTER, COLLECTOR
AND JEWELRY CRAFTSMAN

FIFTEENTH ISSUE
SPECIAL BIRTH STONE NUMBER

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by Donal Hord
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◆ Background of Birthstones

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Treasurer of American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Hardly a child in our land is so poor as to have been born with a mere silver spoon in its mouth. Most of us were born wealthy because of the many heirloom gifts handed to us on a big silver platter.

Among these gifts was the Bible, which has given us more social customs than we appreciate. Effortlessly, without thinking, we placidly follow the traditions to which we have fallen heir. Millions of people have accepted the pleasant practice of wearing natal stones without having given the origin of the custom a second thought—or even a first thought. If we looked carefully at heritages received on the silver platter, we'd thank the Bible for its assistance in having given us the birthstone custom which has been so highly valued through many generations.

Beautiful as the flashing rays of diamonds and the stone-locked dew in opals might be, such ornamental stones would have added glamor if we traced the custom for wearing them. A social habit is like any heritage; it has pedigree. The past record may be a glorious one of which we can be immensely proud. That is true of the birthstone custom, which is venerable from a long, long ancestry—and is honorable because of high purpose at the very start. Therefore, let us give credit where credit is due.

Some people are afraid to look behind the scenes of the ancestral past. They fear the actual facts of history and the ghosts of disillusionment. They'd rather see through a glass darkly and read "what-to-think" pages prepared for them. This lack of evaluation courts danger. It behooves us to scrutinize the ways we adopt, instead of remaining half blind. Ignoring of important facts may prolong some kind of lineage that is as full of vicious and polluted blood as a Kallikak. Among the social customs which had too long a duration, it has been found that genuflections to idols were in vain, witchcraft was unjust even though practiced in the name of the Bible, slavery didn't pay, war business made a sham of peace-on-earth singing. Sometimes a hangover custom is so covered with folderol that we don't see the rotted bare bones. Taken as a whole, many of the ways from the past are good; others are bad; some are half and half. It pays to be thoroughly informed about the heritages we select from the silver platter, since evasion of crucial facts can have no good purpose or result.

We assume that birthstone history is without blemish, but this does not warrant the avoidance of questions. Considering the gem list which stands for the twelve months of the year, we find that a big question mark was raised by critics only a generation ago. A leader in this criticism was George Frederick Kunz, a man of tough science and soft sentiment, and an outstanding authority on gems. He was devoted to a traditional birthstone list because of its direct kinship with famous gem lists given in the New and Old Testaments of the Bible. Paternity so supreme gave the traditional list such significance as to have reverent status for believers in "real birthstones", as they were called by Kunz. Therefore, it was with horror that he faced a modern penchant for commercializing that which is holy and for making mundane that which had sacredness.

He resented changes in the traditional list which discarded the time-honored peridot (which has the supposed rare distinction, along with the diamond, of raining down from the sky at times) and made it an "alternate" in status. He protested the arbitrary switching of birthstones from one month to another—the ruby from December to July, the sapphire from April to September, etc. That was callous and heartless—like kicking one's own birthday from one date to another. As a believer in time-honored significance, he defended an order of stones "which in its origin dates back to the early Christian centuries and which, from the close relation with the sacred gems of the Scriptures, it seems almost sacrilegious to violate by arbitrary changes." He

contended that "there is absolutely no excuse for playing fast and loose with an ancient, and quasi-religious belief in the special virtue of one particular stone for each month, and that one the gem long prescribed by useage."

The issue involved was loyalty to a hallowed tradition—or repudiation. The villain was an intruding new motive which had shoved a venerable custom around. Kunz was a hero coming to the rescue. As a defender of sentimental values, he feared that violations of the traditional list would disturb popular confidence in symbolic gemstones. Above all, there should be no duplication or triplication of stones for a given month, lest the slick selling of "just-as-good" substitutes in place of the "real birthstones" would mean good-as-nothing.

After all his well-intentioned efforts, Kunz lost his fight as a birthstone purist. Only in the story formulas followed by fairy tales and movies do the heroes inevitably win. In real life a real hero may be on the minority side of a question, where he goes down in defeat unhonored and unsung. To the story of Frederick Kunz (in the *Lapidary Journal* of October, 1948,) the reader might well add an appendage which tells of the fight for an ideal. The characteristics of a man and the causes for which he stood are his best biography. Judging by his actions, Kunz must have had more of the warm spirit of St. George in him than he as a man of cold science would have admitted.

This reference to the birthstone battle of not many years ago presents gem-list history with its worst foot forward. The issue of to-change-or-not-to-change is often a nasty dilemma. On the teeter-totter of controversial issues, one side insists on going up, the other is determined not to go down; and the suspension of both in mid-air is a precarious situation. "These are times that try men's souls!", a political writer once exclaimed about such tensions. Regretfully we must admit, even birthstones have their wavering issues.

Happily, the start of gem-list history was made with its best foot forward. This is the part which is so important and of which so few people know. The formulating of the original list was a great achievement, but is doubly noteworthy because of the adverse circumstances which were involved. In considering the background for traditional gemstone lists, we must begin with King Solomon's time for a landmark. His silver platter had on it the fruits of David's efforts—a unified kingdom for the twelve tribes of Israel. After a pompous reign accompanied by waste and extravagance, as if in imitation of ostentatious despots of other lands, his flash of glory was followed in later generations by strife and turmoil, with Hebrews bleeding each other white through plots and counter-plots, revolution and continued warfare. The separated Kingdom of Israel, with its ten tribes in the north, became an easy prey of the Assyrians, whose captives were dispersed into oblivion and became known as the "Lost Tribes." This terrible blow was later followed by another one —from the Babylonians. They ravaged the remaining Kingdom of Judah of the south, destroyed Jerusalem, and deported the Jews considered to be of consequence. Others were left to shift like skulking animals amidst the ruins which the devastators had made. After the apparent glory of Solomon's day, such repetitious cruelities of fate were not easy to take. Why not give up allegiance to the Invisible Sovereign and merge into the heathen mob, as a fallen sparrow loses itself in the grime of the earth. That was the easiest way.

On the surface, after the Babylonians had ruined Jerusalem in 586 B.C., Israel had become a desert of bleached bones from a political point of view. If the remnants of Judah stayed dead, we of the 20th Century would not have our Bible today and most of us would have to choose a cultural ancestry other than Christian—probably Mithraism — for ourselves. The period of the Exile determined what we were to be or not to be.

Under the surface of pestilential politics, the moral health of a mission in life kept the survivors going as a group. The waifs of the earth did not surrender to an easy way out. Enlightening prophets had served them well. Coincidentally, magically, as a team, constructive forces rose like a thirst-quenching spring in a desert. An oasis was nourished into bloom. Sufferers in devastated Jerusalem were given cheer through aid received from other brethren of luckier means. Leading thinkers, though exiled

from their homeland, kept healthful imagination alive, instead of resigning to mental sackcloth and ashes. Men of the pen went into action.

Among the writers, Ezekiel used his genius for creating an imaginative world which was apart from abuses and desolations of stark reality. He turned weary eyes of the people from the wretched present by depicting a New Temple, an inviting ritual and a restored Israel. The Second Isaiah (author of Isaiah 40-55) wrote inspiring rhapsodies to hearten dejected, pessimistic and disillusioned fellow men. "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people", was his theme and song. He lifted men's thoughts to higher conceptions of the Deity. Working on the quiet and anonymously, authors of what is known as the Priestly Code added flesh to the embryonic Pentateuch (first five books of our present Bible). Heritages from the former north and south Kingdoms had a substantial part in this Pentateuch. This combination of several elements grew into the supremely important Law of Moses for the Hebrews. It was part of a theocratic constitution which kept their cultural identity intact, regardless of voracious conduct of gentile nations, for all time afterwards.

Of special interest to us in these developments is a highlight achievement by the Priestly writers. To impress the people with precedents for a new Israel, they dipped far into the past and told of Mosaic time with its glory of ancient ceremonies. Particularly impressive was their description of the original Tabernacle rich with precious metals, beautiful embroidery, colorful drapes, delightful odors and abundance of sacrifices. Presiding over this wondrous scene stood a resplendent high priest, Moses' own brother Aaron, whose scintillating breastplate of twelve gemstones symbolized the pride and virtue of the heavenly-favored Chosen Tribes.

This gorgeous array of gems, so exalted as to be twice described in Exodus (Chapters 28 and 38), had great effect upon the Hebrews—and upon the whole Christian world eventually. But even this gem-list reiteration was not enough when the great Septuagint (Greek version of the Old Testament) was written about 250 B.C. and later. Somehow, the nine gems ascribed to the King of Tyre in Ezekiel 28, according to Hebrew versions, were converted into twelve stones of the same kind and order as in Exodus. When Josephus Flavius, born 37 A.D., wrote his Jewish histories, he described two breastplate gem lists, presumably of the Second Temple, but similar to the Exodus list. When Revelation of the New Testament was written, here again the adornments of the high priest appeared, but rearranged and somewhat modified after the exigencies of various transcriptions and translations. Even the idea of engraving the stones was followed (Rev. 21:14), after the example of Exodus. When the birthstone custom of Christian times was established, again we depended upon the traditional Bible list. The Priestly writers did indeed make a great impression on the numerous generations of men which followed them.

The Exodus gems remain with us like a steady beacon for all time. The world has had many other famous gems, but their memory grows dim in the fog of the years. Where is the moment of glory that was Solomon's and whence did his jewels flee? What were the gems which served Cleopatra's allurement, aside from the pearl, which couldn't have dissolved so quickly? Where are the choice emeralds from Muzo which the Conquistadores seized, and the pieces of jade possessed by Cortez and worth a cart load of gold apiece? Where are the pigeon-blood rubies for monarchs and moguls, which came from Mogok and Mandalay? What stones do the multi-millionaire princes of India have in their coffers? What are the jewels mounted on the royal crown of the British Empire? Who knows the whereabouts of the fabulous gems once owned by the effete Czars? Where are the big "sparklers" of Diamond Jim Brady, which were so much publicized? —and what has happened to the recently famous Hope diamond? Precious stones come and go in their fame, but the Exodus gems loom steadily as ever.

The gem-list achievement was particularly great, because no pretence of wizardry was involved. Each stone depended on its own unvarnished merit. The ascribing of miraculous and talismanic qualities to gemstones could have been done very easily, since that has been a popular practice from early to recent times. Babylonian associations gave every encouragement for belief in all kinds of supernaturalisms. However, the Hebrew

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writers chose to seek the more difficult path of One Cause religion. The gems which they described were symbolic. That was all. A symbol is not a fetish, but a handy and usually attractive object to remind one of something else. Thus, the twelve gems of the breastplate were a reminder of a Chosen People and the constituent tribes, the way Old Glory means America and its States.

We must admit, however, that compilers of the gem list had a harder job to do than Betsy Ross. Our flag has generalized symbols. Any stripe could be any colony and any star could represent any state. But each of the Hebrew gems stood for one certain tribe, with all the stones arranged "according to their names." That was a grand idea —a particular gem for each tribe and the whole ensemble of beautiful stones for a Nation.

To us, who know scores of gems and minerals, the collecting and arranging of a dozen stones for a symbolic purpose seems to be a simple task. Yes, it is easy —if you haven't tried. The National Association of Jewelers tried to arrange a modernized list of birthstones, but ran into the resistance of tradition. Though the present writer is neutral about the problems of trade associations; though he is reputed to be calm of temperament and reasonably progressive in some respects, even he, when personal sensibilities are affected, would be much upset and unreasonably excited if some self-appointed group took the opal away from October, or placed it on a second, third, or fourth-rate team of gems. Such is the way of traditional symbols to which we have become attached.

Even when an organization starts with a clean slate, without the hampering of precedent, the task of devising a symbol system can be a tremendous one. Some of us ought to know, because we've tried.

We thought we saw a golden opportunity to be a Betsy Ross of the Rockhounds. The circumstances were ideal — we thought. We reasoned that no extensive organization ever had more need for a symbol based on gems than the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies with its regional federations and constituent local societies. Gems (supplemented by minerals, metals and fossils) would be an ideal symbol because they reveal our interests so aptly. We do everything that pertains to gemstones—from prospecting to collecting, from designing to making of jewels, from writing about them to staging of huge exhibitions. When reviewing the manuscript for this article, a realistic Rockhound made a caustic remark at this point, "Yes, we do everything all right. Everything but wear them."

In the argument which followed, we finally agreed that Rockhounds do wear some gems, but in a desultory and indiscriminate fashion like any John and Mary Doe on the street. There is no visible sign of jeweled kinship and unity among the gemstone hobbyists of our nation. We are not a distinctly better-dressed group in a gemstone sense. Nevertheless, though we don't wear gems advantageously in justice to our societies and federations, we have a great deal to do with gemstones otherwise.

The pertinent remark by a friendly critic has given new incentive to the quest for a rockhound symbol. Who is imaginative enough to design three-fold symbolism — for the American Federation, for the regional federations, and for the local societies? Attempts of this kind have been unofficial in the past, without publicity and without widespread effort. In the lone strivings of a few, we've fallen flat. We admit that three-fold symbolism is an ambitious aim. Such an apex of designing has never been reached before, so far as we know. Perhaps a nation-wide contest in designing should be held, or perhaps an official committee would have genius enough to procure a result.

Aside from our own bantering critics and their pointed implications about shoe-maker families without shoes, the challenge to action comes from the lean-fingered Israelites of long ago. In planning a gem list, they had meager pickings from the poor resources of the Palestine region. The known gems and minerals were only a small fraction of the many kinds which serve us today. But those gaunt Semites had ingenuity—so much ingenuity that their array of symbolic stones became the point of departure, the model and standard for other gem lists of successive ages which followed. To this day, no array of gems is more notable than the first list in the Bible. (See lists on pages 352-353.)



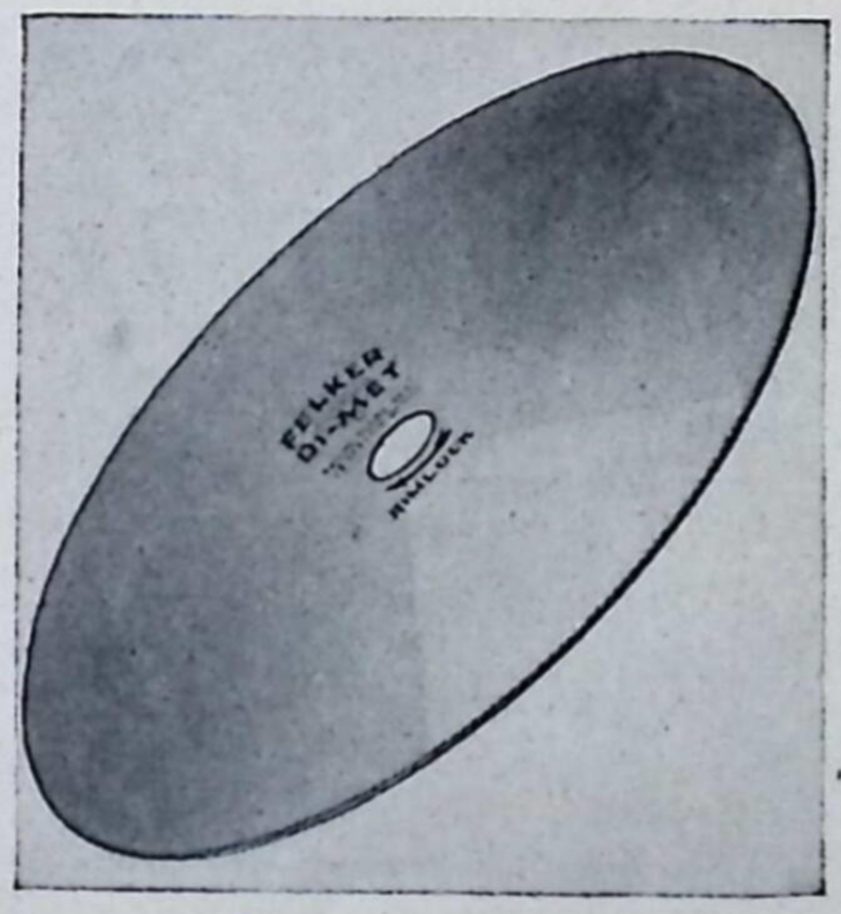
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In planning a symbol system anew, could it be that modern Rockhounds are less ingenious than the Old Timers? Were they able to do much with little, while we do little with much? In contrast to those relatively poor but resourceful Hebrews of long ago have we too many riches on the silver platter from which to choose? If this quandary bothers us, we could use the simple plan of being un-original. As many others have done before us, we could borrow some gems from the ever-handy traditional list. That would be the easy way.

Perhaps the result wouldn't fit our case but the effort would be another compliment to the swarthy men who did spade work in using groups of gems for symbols. Even abundant whiskers wouldn't hide their broad grins, if they could see our fumbling and the temptation to borrow. "Help yourself to some of our ideas," they'd say with a knowing twinkle of their sympathetic brown eyes. Maybe they had done a wee bit of borrowing themselves.

As a postscript to this story of birthstone background and its sidelights, news of forward-looking nature has just been received. To encourage the development of rockhound insignia or "recognition jewelry", the committee for arranging the next convention of the American Federation of Mineralogical societies is planning a comprehensive design contest, and also a feature exhibit for whatever local symbols various societies and regional federations may already be using. Detailed information about the contest and exhibit should be forthcoming soon. At last, the challenge to exercise American initiative and ingenuity in behalf of much-needed symbols for gem-and-rock hobbyists is being accepted. Now we shall see what can be done with 20th Century skills and resources. If results are commensurate with the wonderful opportunity for a unique and outstanding lapidary achievement, another epochal step will have been taken in using gemstones for symbols.

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◆ Science and Birthstones

S. N. GREEN
Gem Village, Bayfield, Colo.

Linking birthstones with today's science may bring an amused smile from the tolerant and rabid comment from the intolerant scientist. However, it is my intention in this article only to *suggest* such a possibility and not to start an argument pro or con.

It would be well before beginning such a discussion to define the main terms. Crudely, and for this paper only, I will term *Science* as the recent discoveries in the academic field; *Astrology* as ancient knowledge classified and symbolized by the stars; *Religion* as the knowledge of good and evil—the development of one and the suppression of the other.

One can hardly explain a theory of birthstones without the free use of analogy. That is to say, the "likeness of things." For example one may say sound is like color because the seven colors of the rainbow are like the seven notes of the scale. So a theory of birthstones is like some orthodox science theory in that there is a reasonable comparison between the two.

And one may say that human knowledge can roughly be divided into two sections. In the first are the material *facts* which can be measured by the tools of science and are the main field of science. In the second are the non-material things such as emotion, mind, and spirit which no material tool can measure and which are the main concern of astrology and religion.

The material facts about birthstones are fairly well known and explained elsewhere in this issue. We will confine ourselves then with that intangible, the beneficent influence of gems and why one can, with reason, wear them as birthstones.

The sciences of physics and chemistry are taught in all schools, but psychology is hardly touched upon short of college. In the field of psychology, parapsychology is one of its newest branches and as yet quite unknown outside of a small group. But it is in the domain of parapsychology that science, astrology, and religion find common meeting ground.

Clairvoyance is now an established scientific fact, and the knowledge gained by such means has been found to be quite as reliable as knowledge gained by material means. What is clairvoyance and this "extra sensory perception" that we are hearing so much about today? It is simply human faculty as normal as sight or hearing and no more marvelous. A trained clairvoyant has developed an extraordinary insight or penetration, call it intuition if you wish, that enables him to study the problems of the non-material quite beyond the ability of the scientist.

There is so much confusion and contradiction in today's lists of birthstones. Why not use this most recent scientific method to secure a *new* list? I shall attempt to do this.

There are three modern clairvoyants whose writings are well known and whose methods and findings have no taint of fraud. Do not confuse a clairvoyant with a "medium." for the latter is untrained unreliable and of no value in the field of research.

In none of the writings of these three clairvoyants have birthstones been mentioned as far as I am aware. However, each contributes a part which can be perfectly dovetailed together, forming a remarkable birthstone table.

The first of these clairvoyants is C. W. Leadbeater. In his book (now out of print) "The Science of the Sacraments," he gives a list of gem stones classified by colors closely approximating the seven of our spectrum. This idea is further developed by C. N. Stewart in his "Gem Stones of the Seven Rays," still available if you wish to study it. Condensed and giving color and leading corresponding gems only we have the following:

COLOR	MATCHING GEM
Red	Ruby
Orange	Jasper
Yellow	Topaz
Green	Emerald
Blue	Diamond
Indigo	Sapphire
Violet	Amethyst

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The second clairvoyant is Levi Downing and his book "Aquariam Gospel" is very widely known. His contribution to our list is the periods of the year and their rulers:

DIVISIONS OF THE YEAR	RULING PLANET
Dec. 21st, to Jan. 18th	Saturn
Jan. 19th, to Feb. 17	Saturn
Feb. 18th, to Mar. 20th	Jupiter
Mar. 21st, to April 19th	Mars
April 20th, to May 20th	Venus
May 21st, to June 20th	Mercury
June 21st, to July 21st	Moon
July 22nd, to Aug. 22nd	Sun
Aug. 23rd, to Sept. 22nd	Mercury
Sept. 23rd, to Oct. 22nd	Venus
Oct. 23rd, to Nov. 21st	Mars
Nov. 22nd, to Dec. 20th	Jupiter

The third clairvoyant is Edgar Cayce. His 30,000 readings given during his lifetime are well known in scientific circles and constitute by far the largest and most remarkable collection of psychic data in the English language. His contributions are the planets and their corresponding color:

PLANET	COLOR
Mars	Red
Sun	Orange
Mercury	Yellow
Saturn	Green
Venus	Indigo
Jupiter	Blue
Moon	Violet

It will be noted that the Cayce List has color in common with the Leadbeater list and planets in common with the Downing list. We can now match the three lists, cancel the colors and the planets, and we have left what I choose to call the "Gem Village Birthstones" as follows:

Date of birth, from	*Appropriate Gem*
Jan. 19th to Feb 17th	Emerald, aquamarine, jade, malachite, peridot, amazonite, pyrite.
Feb. 18th to Mar. 20th	Diamond, rock crystal, white quartz, zircon, opal, magnetite.
Mar. 21st to April 20th	Ruby, tourmaline pyrope garnet, carnelian carbuncle, thulite, rhodonite, red coral.
April 20th to May 20th	Sapphire, lapis lazuli, turquoise, sodalite, benitoite, fluorite.
May 21st to June 20th	Topaz, citrine, steatite, cairngorm, amber, chrysotile, obsidian, jet.
June 21st to July 21st	Amethyst porphyry, violan, hematite.
July 22nd to Aug. 22nd	Jasper, chalcedony, agate, serpentine, pearl, selenite, alabaster.
Aug. 23rd to Sept. 22nd	Topaz, citrine, steatite, cairngorm, amber chrysotile, obsidian, jet.
Sept. 23rd to Oct. 22nd	Sapphire, lapis lazuli, turquoise, sodalite, benitoite, fluorite.
Oct. 23rd to Nov. 21st	Ruby, tourmaline, pyrope garnet, carnelian, carbuncle, thulite, rhodonite, red coral.
Nov. 22nd to Dec. 20th	Diamond, rock crystal, white quartz, zircon, opal, magnetite.
Dec. 21st to Jan. 18th	Emerald, aquamarine, jade, malachite, peridot, amazonite, pyrite.

So why wear a birthstone? The scientist and the mystic agree that the atom is like a tiny solar system, the electrons moving about the proton at incomprehensible speed and the proton held in a titanic power. A diamond, for example, is pure carbon, the molecules of which are in marvelous order and the whole forming a magnetic field.

The human body, as science has also proven, is a magnetic field. Bring the body and a diamond together, and the stronger will, by resonance, influence the weaker. Time, of course, with gems is a great factor, as their action is much slower than a soluble mineral, such as hyalite. No one questions the vital action of salt in the body, so why hesitate at the use of sodalite as a beneficial gem? Why not use a gem to influence those intangibles—the emotion, thought and spirit?

Modern science owes much to the amateur. The amateur has none of the inhibitions of the orthodox and with his prodigious use of time and labor he has uncovered many facts. Look upon the birthstone as an object of study and experimentation. Consider what the "ham" has accomplished in the field of radio. Bring to *your* hobby a new interest and perhaps an important discovery and the public recognition it merits.

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THEORY

Whatever gem you select, for yourself, your family, friends or to sell, you wish a rational reason to back your choice. This is difficult to give, as science has so recently broken through materialistic boundaries. If you wish to dig up an answer for yourself, we suggest the following new books:

HUMAN DESTINY ($3.75) by de Nouy. A mathematician's viewpoint.

MAGIC, SCIENCE and RELIGION ($3.50) by Malinowski. An anthropologist's viewpoint.

MASTERS and the PATH ($2.50) by Leadbeater. A theosophist's viewpoint.

REACH of the MIND ($3.50) by Rhine. A psychologist's viewpoint.

THERE is a RIVER ($3.00) by Sugrue. A clairvoyant's viewpoint.

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(Gem Village) **Bayfield, Colorado**

◆ Birthstones, Jewelry and the Zodiac

By ARCH NISBET
3218 McLean Ave., Chicago 47, Ill.
Member Marquette Geologists

The average individual is not troubled to a great extent in the choice of a suitable stone for his or her jewelry. In fact most accept the choice of their jewels as final. There are two groups of students and hobbyists who are not satisfied with the lists of birthstones as given. The amateur gemologists would be interested in which of the many birthstone lists are correct and the astrologer (not astronomer) cannot reconcile any list giving months as he believes the zodiacal divisions of the year to be correct.

The study of birthstones in relation to the body is covered by another author in this issue, but mention at this point seems necessary. In Exodus, Chapter 28, the high priest of the twelve tribes of Israel was given instructions for preparing his breastplate as follows,— "And thou shall set it in settings of stones, even four rows of stones; The first row shall be a sardius, a topaz, and a carbuncle. And the second row shall be an emerald, a sapphire and a diamond; and the third row a ligure an agate and an amethyst; and the fourth row a beryl and an onyx, and a jasper."

In the above list the stones mentioned were evidently not found in Palestine as that country is not known as a gem producing area. We do know however, the people were great traders and had a steady flow of caravan goods going through their country from India, Egypt, Persia, etc., so their list of stones depended on the material available to them by trade.

The number of different birthstone lists is great indeed and no two lists agree. I have tried to see if they arrived at their selection through the choice of color or chemical analysis and find they did not follow either course. Then how did they arrive at their choice? Some are supposed to have received their choices through revelation or clairvoyance but their sources must be wrong as even these did not agree. The ancients gave meaning to different stones and the above list from the Bible states that each stone attributed to each sign bore a quality said to describe the nature of that particular tribe.

There is a general basis for describing similarities in people born under the different signs and perhaps research could be done by the astrologer group in this line but how one would attribute these qualities to different stones is beyond my comprehension.

However, I have found these general characteristics to be more than mere superstition in describing peoples. We learn in science that there is vibration in all matter and we know there are minerals with piezo-electric qualities. The government used this characteristic in the quartz crystals to control radio communication wave lengths.

It is not my thought to here espouse the arguments of the astrologers but science, and research in colleges, is proving the lunar month in which the moon holds new and full positions controls the sap flow in maple trees; the full moon timing the greatest flow. Mental institutions have more difficult times with patients and dogs seem to bite more people during this same period.

For those gemologists who would like to see if they could correlate characteristics of peoples with gem stones the following is a general list of attributes of the different groups.—

Aries—March 21-April 20—A type of pioneering person with much energy and a tendency to overdo either in work or play. The ruler assigned to Aries is Mars, a red planet. It is said to be a fire sign and the metal companion is iron.

Taurus—April 21-May 20—Produces a person in which all their activities must revolve around or radiate from the home. They are emotional, fixed in

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habits, dislike change, are determined and impatient. The metal for Taurus is copper, the color blue, rose, pink and yellow. Venus rules.

Gemini—May 21-June 20—Here we have a person interested in mental things, somewhat changeable, quick acting and thinking, restless, can be interested in dual hobbies or accomplishments. Blue or silver gray are the colors. Ruler is Mercury and the metal mercury. An air sign.

Cancer—June 21-July 22—Executive, emotional in some ways, even controlling their thinking at times, receptive, sensitive, takes on conditions of others, withdraws when feelings are hurt. Ruler, the Moon; metal is silver; color opalescent tints silver and green. Cancer is a water sign.

Leo—July 23-August 22—Generous, pleasure loving, business executive ability, likes power, is magnanimous. Don't criticize a Leo's children! Seldom if ever stoop to petty things. Ruler, the Sun; Metal is gold; color orange, gold or red. A fire sign.

Virgo—August 23-September 22—The analytical type; reason, chastity, an overly advisory trait, fast thinker. Ruler is Mercury; metal is mercury. Virgo is an earth sign. Colors gray-blue, black and yellow.

Libra—September 23-October 23—The sign of justice or judgement, expressive—like work which is mental and where dirt is not encountered. They like to have their ideas followed by others without comment. Need in life is balance and they require a partner to make life complete for them. An air sign; mental. Ruler is Venus; metal is copper; color is crimson, turquoise blue and pastel tints.

Scorpio—October 24-November 22—A positive, persistent investigating type of person. Goes all out on his own ideas. Forgives but never forgets a wrong; ruled by Pluto or Mars; Metal is iron or radio-active metals; colors are brown, orange or dark red. A water sign.

Sagittarius—November 23-December 21—Foresight, a photographic mind, takes a philosophic view of things, hard to change their mind if they have a preconceived idea. A fire sign; metal is tin. Gold, green or purple are the colors. Ruler is Jupiter.



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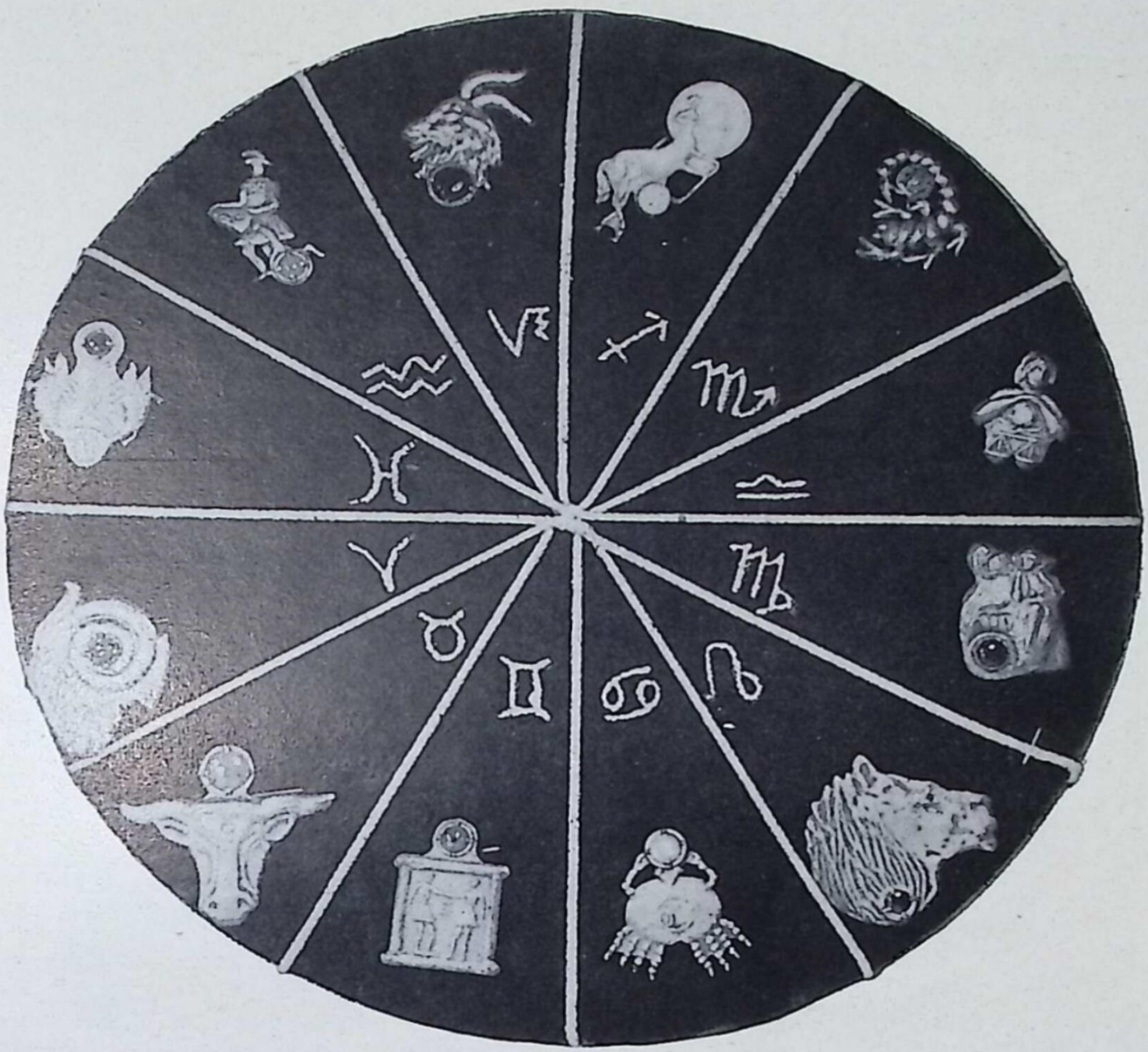
Capricorn—December 22-January 19—Ambitious as to business, like to be looked up to, plan the future even if a length of time is required, an earth sign; metal is lead; colors are brown, silver-gray, dark green or black. Ruling planet is Saturn.

Aquarius—January 20-February 18—The person with originality; cares for nothing orthodox in action or ideas; seems very unorthodox to others; is an air sign ruled by Uranus. Colors are plaids, changeable or mottled colors and pale blue; metal is uranium or platinum.

Pisces—February 19-March 20—Sympathetic, inward emotion in respect to outward expression. A water sign; no metal is assigned; colors are ocean tints. Stones of a flowing nature or with flow marks are said to fit Pisceans.

The foregoing will give the investigating mind a chance to try to correlate stones to fit characteristics, metals or colors to the various signs.

Another field for research would be to study the findings of scientists' investigation in the field of spectrograph analysis. Find the elements as given by such analysis and correlate corresponding stones having the same or similar elements or combinations. The latter seems



The Zodiac in silver and gemstones

to me to be the better field and more scientific than the other fields; something not as abstract and which would give definite results.

Whether or not any benefit is given the wearer in the form of "luck" in wearing his own particular birthstone is subject to conjecture but as long as you are going to wear a stone why not wear your birthstone? But first you must determine which it is. An example of the above choice could be the sign Aries. Spectrograph analysis is said to give iron to a great extent. Therefore iron bearing stones could be used; Hematite, almandite, etc. Taurus, said to contain copper, could have malachite, turquoise, lazurite, etc.

In designing jewelry we have more to go on and an agreement in the various symbols assigned to the signs in the shape of figures, animals, etc., which lend themselves to jewelry as well as the symbols themselves which the astrologers use as abbreviations to denote either the sign or ruling planet.

Aries, the sign of the ram or lamb; Taurus, the bull; Gemini, the twins Castor and Pollux; Cancer, the crab; Leo, the lion; Virgo, the virgin; a sheaf of wheat or ear of corn; Libra, the scales; Scorpio, the scorpion or the eagle; Saggittarius the Centaur or a bow and arrow; Capricorn, the mountain or sea goat; Aquarius, a figure with an urn with flowing liquid; and Pisces, two fish swimming in an opposite direction tied together with a twine.

Repousé or raised ornament or a silhouette type of treatment can be given your metal embellished with the birth stone if desired or in the zodical illustration use can be made of the sign symbols. Any effort made in making a zodia-

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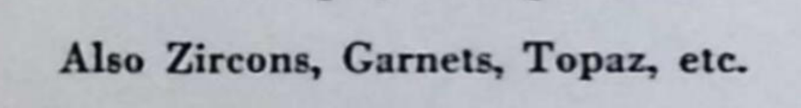
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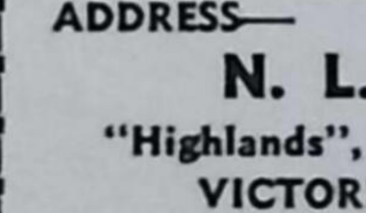
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cal piece of jewelry will give a more individualistic piece of work more appreciated by yourself or the recipient.

Mention must be made of the various stone lists given. Kunz lists Biblic lists given by the Hebrews, the India lists, lists of latter dates and one as agreed on by jewelers at a convention in Kansas City. (See page 353.)

In conclusion, I don't think I have solved the birthstone problem but if I have given any hints at arriving at one agreeable to the gemologist, I shall be happy.



Capricorn, the goat. Sawed from silver and applied to a roughed up silver back. The gem setting is black onyx.

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Birthstone Jewelry of the Americas

By ELIZABETH X. GREEN
Gem Village, Bayfield, Colorado

Long before Columbus dreamed of sailing West to get East the inhabitants of the Americas were as much concerned with the date of their birth as the Europeans. While it is true that their year differed from ours, in that it consisted of 18 months of twenty days each and one month having five unlucky days, their system of keeping track of the years has been considered much more accurate than the calendar used by Columbus in his journey to the New World.

It is a mere matter of simple counting to fit the Maya system to our modern calendar which favors some months with more days than others. In this way a new set of birthday symbols, *truly American,* is derived. Most of us, as descendants of the Old World, have given little thought to the beautiful jewelry designs and native semi-precious gems found in the New World. This type of jewelry combines both in a pleasing and adaptable combination. The designs illustrated on the opposite page are basic and may be used in rings, pins, bracelets, tie-clasps, lapel pins, cuff links, hairclips, necklaces, etc., without robbing them of any of their primitive grace.

The designs used are exact copies of the ancient Maya month symbols. The only change is some juggling of the periods so that they fit our twelve month system. The Mayas also had special meanings for special months. For example, February (Zip in Maya, No. II in the illustration) is the month of the sorcerers and the fishermen. April (Xul, No. IV) is concerned with the watergods and the new fire which symbolized life. May is the sun month (Yaxkin, No. V). While September is designated by the East and the color red. November (Pax, No. XI) is the month of the warriors and the month of the gathering of honey. These are only a few.

The stones used in the "American" jewelry (illustrated opposite) are those found in the Americas, the Wyoming jade, the Lake Superior thompsonite, the Mexican opal, the South American beryl, etc. They combine the simple beauty of the Maya designs and the multiple of colors of the gem stones of the Americas. Something new for the 20th century, but something created a long time ago, and in a combination of which the Mayas never dreamed.

THE WESTERN MONTHS
and
THEIR MAYA COUNTERPARTS

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II	FEBRUARY	ZIP
III	MARCH	TZEC
IV	APRIL	XUL
V	MAY	YAXKIN
VI	JUNE	YAX
VII	JULY	ZAC
VIII	AUGUST	MAC
IX	SEPTEMBER	KANKIN
X	OCTOBER	MAUN
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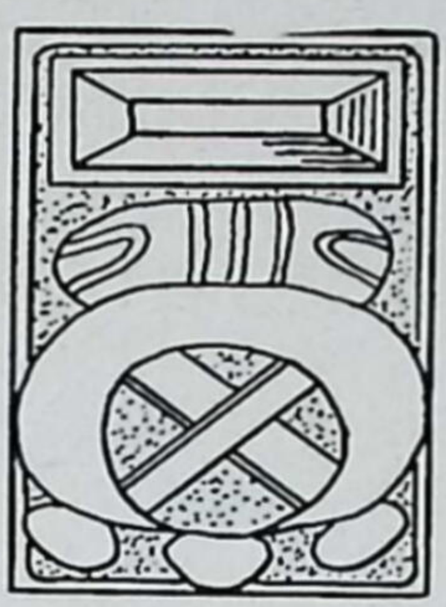
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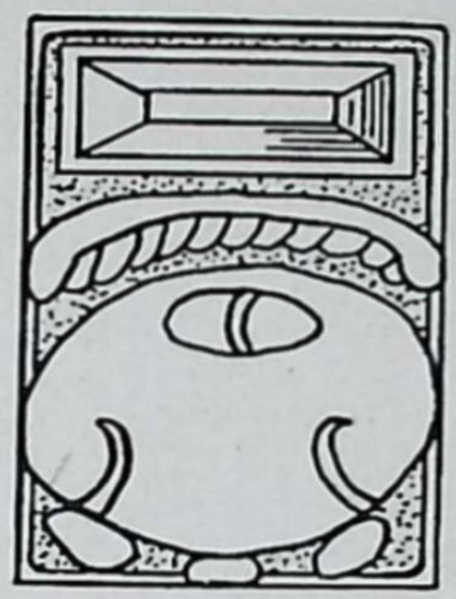
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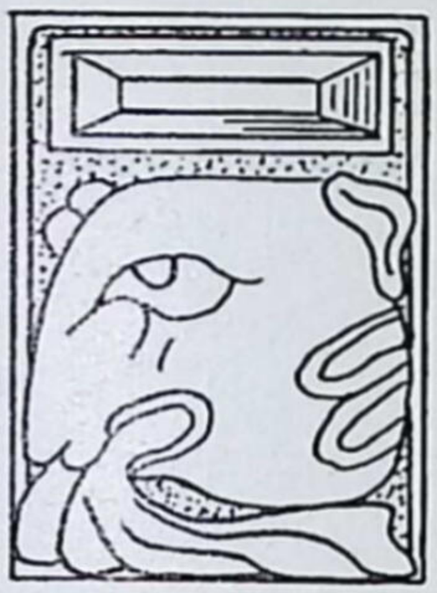
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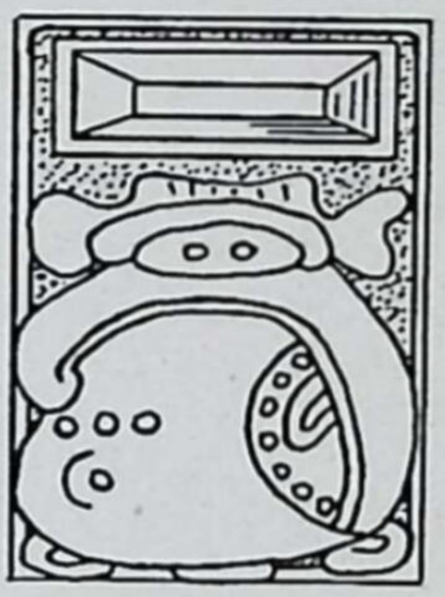
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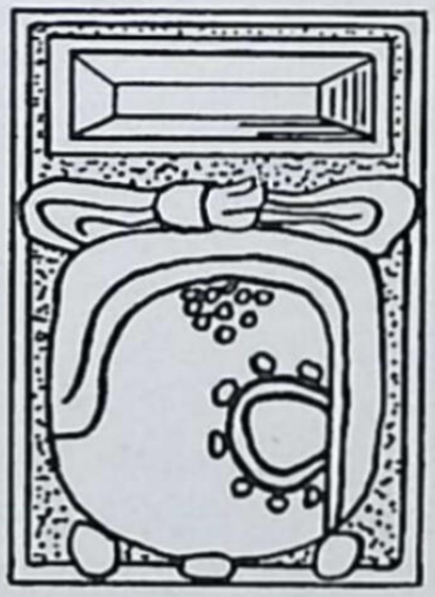
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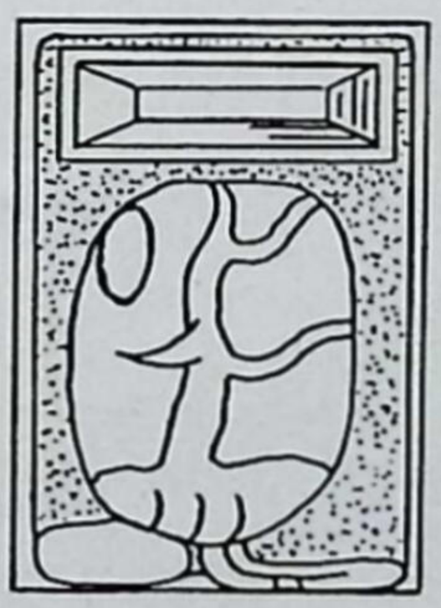
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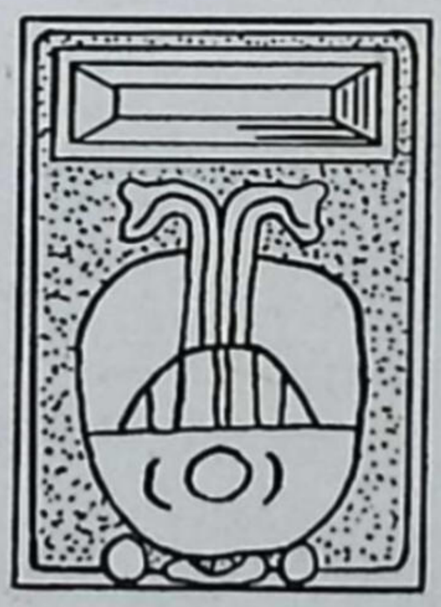
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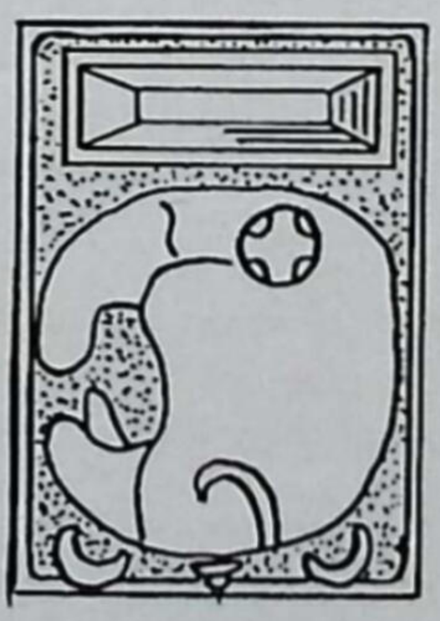
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X



XI



XII

Silver and gemstone lapel pins described on opposite page.

◆ Birth Stones

By DR. GEORGE FREDERICK KUNZ

The Hebrew superstitions relating to gems were probably derived from Egyptian, Babylon, and Phoenician sources, and possibly to a small degree from the Naoratna, or nine-gem jewel of the Hindus. The influence of gems was believed in through the Middle Ages and down to the 17th Century. As to some of them is still persists to our day.

The association of a special gem with each month was probably suggested by the original breastplate of the High Priest, which contained twelve gems, one for each of the tribes of Israel. The original breastplate was a span long and a span high: 1 span equals 8 inches. The arrangement by months came in vogue during the 15th and 16th centuries, but was first suggested in the seventh century, although it is attributed to the Jews, Romans, and early Arabians.

This list is based upon the theory that the original Breastplate was lost or broken up during the Babylonian Captivity, and the one that was seen by Josephus in the Temple in Roman times was put together in the fifth or fourth century B. C. This vanished when Jerusalem was captured and sacked by the Sassanian Persians under Khrusrau II, in 615 A.D. In 637 A. D.. if anything remained of it, the jewel came into the hands of the Mohammedan conquerors at the fall of Ctesiphon.

The famous Naoratna, or "nine-gem" jewel of the Hindus, gives the most complete expression to their belief in the association of gems with the planets and with the fate of man. In an ancient Hindu treatise on gems, the Navaratnapariksha, a magic ring composed of these nine gems is described. the central stone, the ruby, being surrounded by the eight stones associated with the cardinal points and having the indicated planetary affinities:

Stone	Position	Planet
Ruby	In the Center	The Sun
Diamond	To the East	Venus
Pearl	To the So'heast	The Moon
Coral	To the South	Mars
Jacinth	To the So'w'st	Waxing Moon
Sapphire	To the West	Saturn
Topaz	To the Northeast	Jupiter
Cat's-eye	To the North	Waxing Moon
Emerald	To the Northwest	Mercury

An echo, or a counterpart, of this nine-gem jewel may be seen in the Prophet Ezekiel's description of the "covering" of the King of Tyre (chap. XXVIII 13), written early in the 6th century B. C. The nine precious stones enumerated are: "sardius, topaz, diamond, beryl, onyx, jasper, sapphire, emerald and carbuncle." This may be an abbreviation of the list of Breastplate stones or, again, it may perhaps be the origin of the longer list of twelve stones.

Still another, and probably an older grouping of magic stones, is that given in an ancient Assyrian hymn concerning seven magic stones set "upon the shining breast of the King as an ornament." While most of the Assyrian names have not yet been interpreted, one of them, uknû, is almost certainly the lapis-lazuli, while another, the elmêshu, said to be "perfect in celestial beauty," has been conjectured by Prof. Delitzsch to be the diamond.

To precious stones was attributed in former times the power of protection, or at least of lending a charm to life, and of attracting and holding the love of the one on whom they are bestowed, and that of preserving health, or fortune, or life.

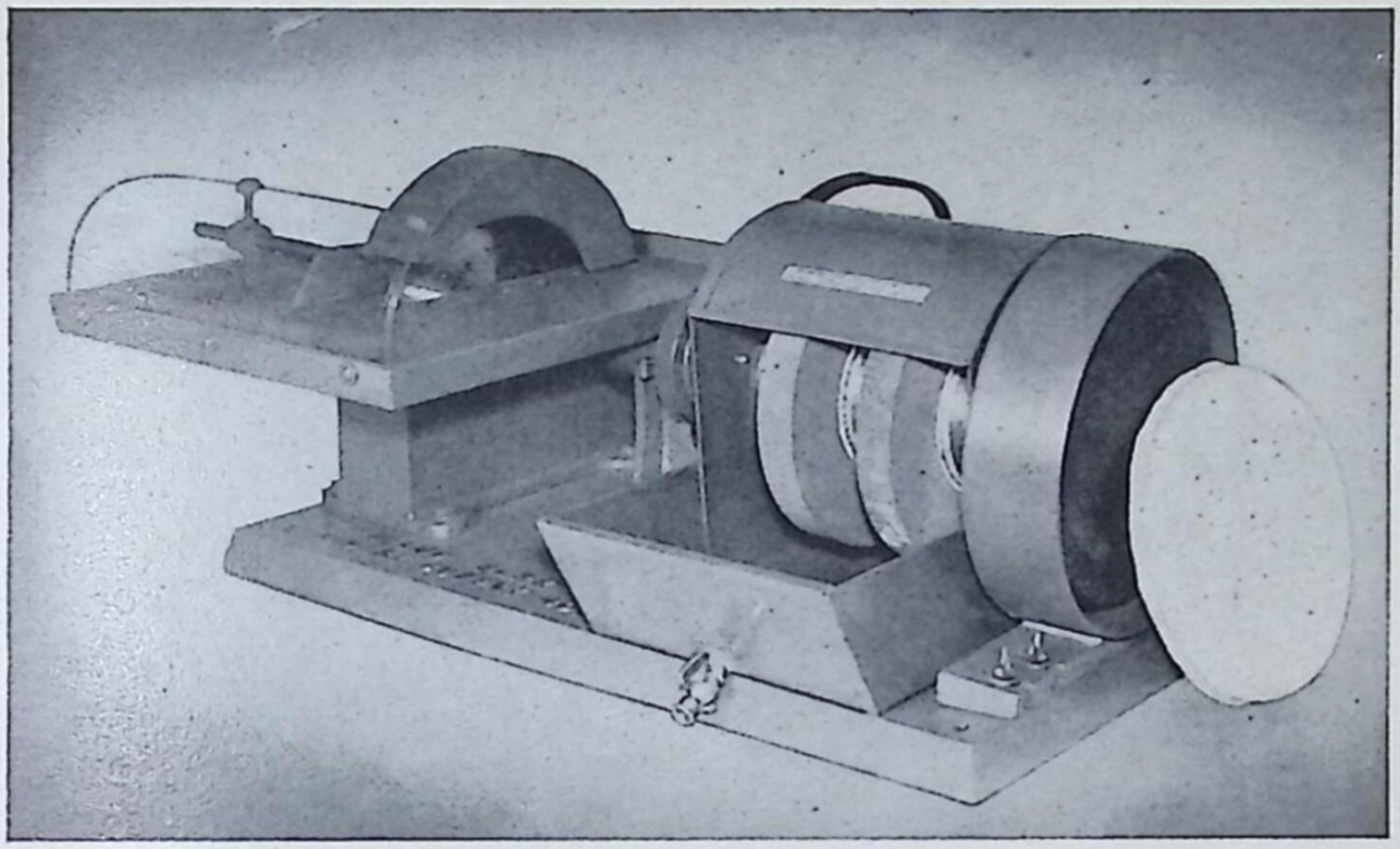
As the supposedly magical influence of the Twelve Natal Gems is based upon the cycle of the Zodiac, their sphere of action does not absolutely coincide with the months, but in each case embraces part of two successive months. Thus the Garnet, the gem of January and of Aquarius, definitely applies to those born between January 20 and February 19; the Amethyst that of February and Pisces, covers the period from February 20 to March 10, etc. Thus corrected, the exact spheres of influence are as follows:

I

Garnet (Aquarius) Jan. 20 to Feb. 19

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IV

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V

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VI

Agate (Cancer) June 21 to July 20.

VII

Turquoise (Leo) July 21 to Aug. 21.

VIII

Carnelian (Virgo) Aug. 22 to Sept. 22.

IX

Chrysolite (Libra) Sept. 23 to Oct. 22.

X

Beryl (Scorpio) Oct. 23 to Nov. 22.

XI

Topaz (Sagittarius) Nov. 23 to Dec. 20.

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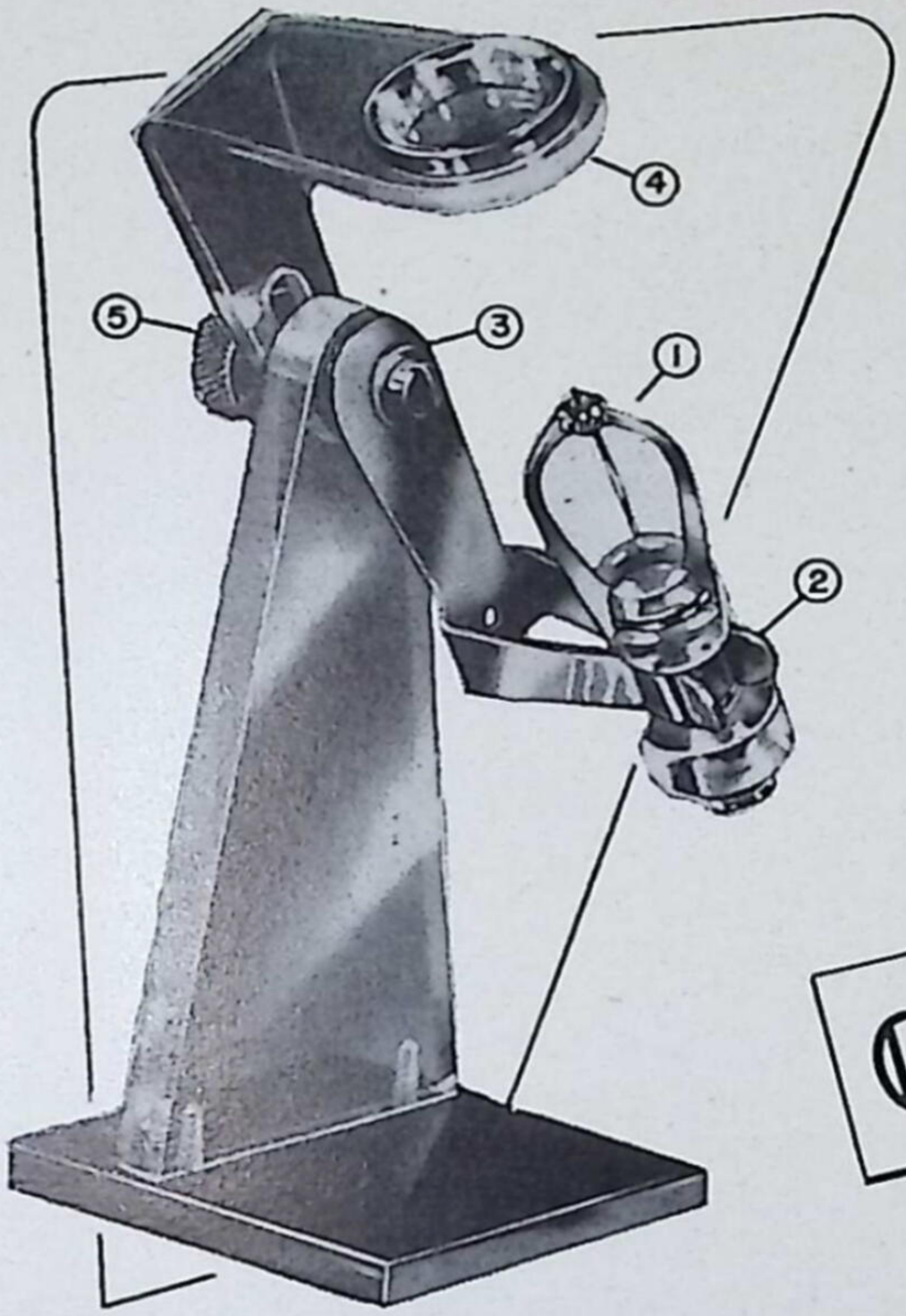
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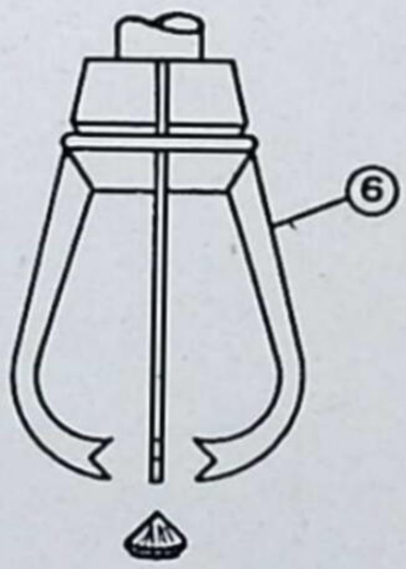
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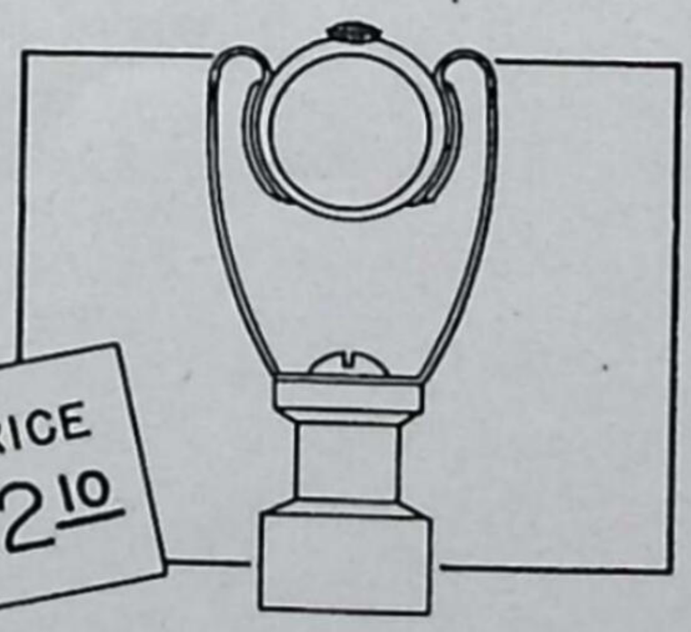


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◆ I Say It's Junk

By ELDON E. SOPER
433 S. Central Ave.
Glendale 4, Calif.
Member Glendale Lapidary & Gem Society

This controversy began in February, 1949. Mr. Quick, in the Beginners' Page of the *Lapidary Journal* was giving some good advice to a lady in Texas. It concerned the purchase of a small lapidary outfit. His advice was to purchase a small machine made by any recognized manufacturer and grow up from there. If, later on, better equipment was wanted the small outfit could be sold to some other beginner. "But," he says, "you can't sell some home-made junk to anyone."

Like many other statements of truth, this set off the fireworks.

Our friend Edwin S. Kirkland, who certainly has a sense of entertaining wit and humor, interspersed with some very pointed irony, came forth with a long dissertation regarding the value of home-made versus manufactured equipment. He captioned this, "Who Said It's Junk?" It was courageously published in the August 1949 issue of the *Lapidary Journal*. This writer read the article very carefully. In fact, I have read it three times, but while it is highly entertaining as reading matter, it doesn't prove anything for the same reason that a robin doesn't make a Spring or a swallow make a Summer.

Near the end of the article in question the author expressed the belief that the Journal would not publish it, at least without cutting it all to pieces. But he evidently underestimated the Editor who had the courage to print it in toto. Mr. Kirkland said that anyone who has the ability to polish stones also has the ability to "assemble a cheap outfit." Right there he gets into deep water because it is not clear whether he means to stick to home-made stuff or take manufactured equipment and "assemble" it. In the latter case the product is *not home-made* but *manufactured*.

But let us go back a bit. The writer is a dealer in manufactured equipment. It is our opinion that the average home-made equipment is just so much junk—a waste of time and energy. As evidence of our sincerity we would say the same thing if we never sold a piece of equipment or made a dollar in handling it. We will stipulate that in most cases the exception proves the rule. We do not say there are no people who can make equipment that is satisfactory. We do say that the people who make their own are, as a rule, mechanics and not rockhounds. Their pride is often in the making of a *machine* rather than in the beauty of a polished stone. Come "show time" and the average home-made equipment enthusiast has little or nothing to offer as a gem display because he has been so busy tinkering with his home-made junk and trying to improve it that he just hasn't had time to cut and polish a few stones.

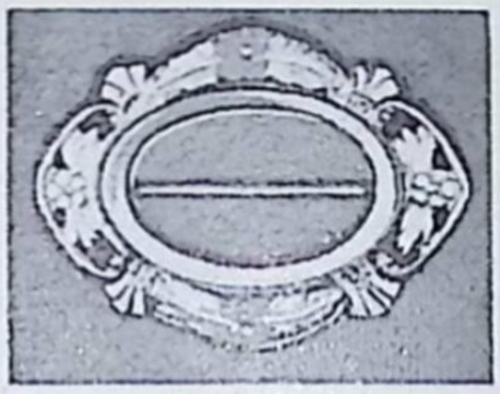
It does not matter from what angle we approach the subject we get virtually the same answer. Let us say there are eight million rockhounds in the U. S. A. (as reported in the press) and that 75 per cent of them actually use some equipment. This gives us six millions in rough figures. Now let us see just how many of these would successfully make good workable equipment. There are four requisites in making any piece of machinery. First, is the desire, second, is the time, third, are the tools and fourth is the ability or "know how." Adjust the order to suit yourself. Let us begin by assuming that 50 per cent of our rockhounds are women who have none of the four requisites. This reduces the number to three million. Let us further assume that another million are doctors, dentists, lawyers, and other professional or retired men, who are either too busy or lack the incentive to tackle the job of making equipment. This leaves us two million. And here is where we really begin to cut the number. If we figure 50% have the desire, we now have left one million. Perhaps 5% of these have the time, so we now have fifty thousand. Not more than 2% have the necessary tools, so we now have one thousand. Assuming

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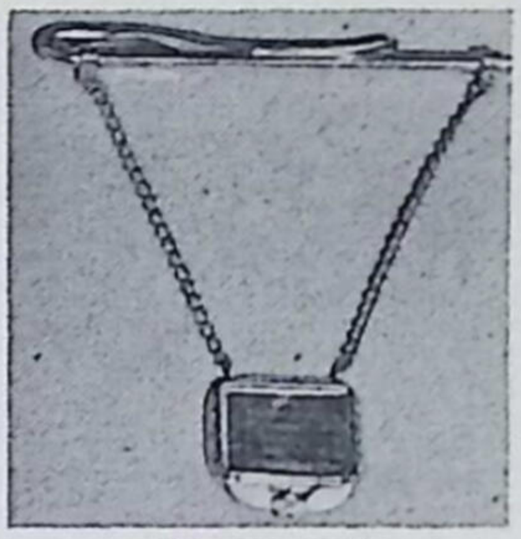
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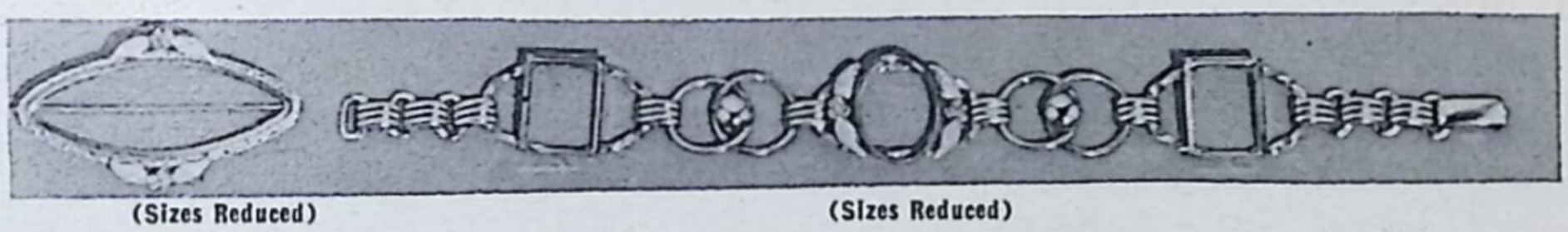
(Sizes Reduced)

No. 936XO
13/12 mm
Less Chain
$15.00 doz
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No. 919PCX
16/12 mm
G.P. bar and chain
$20.10 dozen
Less than dozen
$1.90 each



(Sizes Reduced)

No. 921X
42-15 mm
$30.00 dozen
Less than dozen
$2.80 each

(Sizes Reduced)

No. 849X
Flexible Bracelet, 2—16/12 rectangular
and 1—18/13 oval stone seats.
$40.50 dozen
Less than dozen
$3.75 each

Above prices offered for resale buyers . . . specify on order "For Resale Only" giving any additional identifying information available.

20% Federal tax must be added if this information can not be supplied.

Minimum Order $10.00

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Complete set as illustrated, with two 1/20 - 12K pendant chains $14.95

Federal tax included.

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from inexpensive to finest

Complete your Collection

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A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
And A
HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR
From all at our house
to
All at yours

This year we will close our books on a very successful year. We wish to thank all of you—our many friends and customers; your confidence, loyalty and enthusiastic reception of our settings made this possible.

Be assured we will do our utmost to merit your continued confidence by giving you The Very Finest in style, quality and value throughout the coming years.

See our ads on Pages 309 and 337

THE CONLEY CO.
Manufacturers and Distributors
Fine Jewelry Mountings
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that 10% have the ability we now have 100. The figure sounds ridiculously low and of course, may not reflect the true percentage of those who actually make some part of their own equipment. We might raise the percentages all along the line, but the higher we raise them the more junk we get. For the percentages given are about right, for those who can actually turn out equipment that is *usable* and *safe*.

How many of us have ever thought of the safety feature of the equipment we use? Have you observed that this angle is coming to be recognized more and more by manufacturers? One reliable firm has gone so far as to completely enclose their slabbing saw—all belts and movable parts are covered. This is an important step in the right direction but how many home mechanics do this?

The writer has a rockhound friend who is one of these rare home-made equipment enthusiasts. Some time ago we met on the street. He was looking very pale and had his left hand bandaged. Upon inquiry it was learned that he had just come from the doctor's office because he had permitted his little finger to get between the belt and the drive wheel of a large home-made lap. The finger was ultimately saved but my friend admits that it will always be stiff, practically useless and rather in the way. Had this been a piece of manufactured equipment the belt would have been covered or probably placed where he could not get his fingers caught in it. One accident of this nature will take away all the joy a person can get out of his lapidary work for a long time to come.

This same fellow made a continuous belt sander out of some parts of an old automobild. As our friend Kirkland says, "It works." Its performance is perhaps acceptable—but the racket it makes is not. What saves my friend in this case is the fact that his near neighbors are relatives and naturally they will put up with things that would cause other people to call the police. Most of us could use a continuous belt sander to advantage. The writer would like to have one, but when one is obtained it will be a machine that will operate efficiently, *quietly* and *safely*. In other words, it will be made by a reputable manufacturer of lapidary equipment.

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A fascinating book of all the principal California gem locations. Well illustrated with maps and photos. No rock hunter should be without this inexpensive and informative book. If you plan to visit California get this helpful guide first.

GEM CUTTING *by J. Daniel Willems, M.D.*—$3.50

The newest book on gem cutting. Well illustrated and easily understood. A very readable book even if you never intend to cut gems but wish to be informed. Tells how to construct equipment and organize a shop. Equally divided between all phases of cabochon cutting and faceting. Gives list of minimum requirements for a lapidary shop.

HANDBOOK FOR THE AMATEUR LAPIDARY *by J. Harry Howard*—$3.00

The first book on the subject and still as good as the best. Step by step instructions on all phases of gem cutting. 225 well illustrated pages. Fine cloth binding. Good index. New techniques and tools discussed.

THE ART OF GEM CUTTING *by Dake and Pearl*—$1.50

Contains much useful information, not contained in the previously mentioned books, taken from the author's magazine THE MINERALOGIST, which has published lapidary articles for many years. Also contains all the fundamental information needed for the beginner.

POPULAR GEMOLOGY *by Richard M. Pearl*—$4.00

The newest book on gemology written by the former president of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Not a book about gem cutting but indispensable to the gem cutter. It "explains" gems in a readable and easily understood manner. Tells the best form in which each gem material should be cut.

IDENTIFICATION AND QUALITATIVE CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF MINERALS *by Orsino C. Smith*—$6.50

The most complete handbook on minerals ever published. 386 pages, illustrated in full color. Full information on all known minerals with every step in identification and analysis clearly explained. The most attractive and valuable mineral book available today.

THE STORY OF THE GEMS *by Herbert P. Whitlock*—$4.00

The late Mr. Whitlock was curator for many years of the American Museum of Natural History and possessed a rare gift for telling the layman about scientific matters. Custodian of the Morgan Collection of Gems, the author had a wide knowledge of gem locations, characteristics and uses. Handsomely illustrated.

JADE *by Berthold Laufer*—$12.50

A reprinting of the world's best book on jade. Lavishly illustrated, it is *the* authority on the subject. 370 large pages. No one interested in jade should be without this book. Expensive but worth it!

The Lapidary Journal

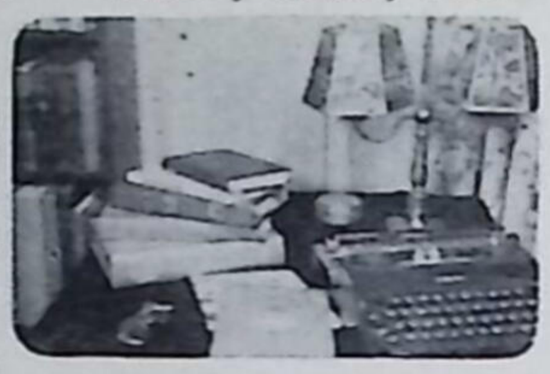
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Dr. Willems

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Men have written books to express their thinking and to record their experience —so that you and I may profit thereby, and avoid their errors.

BOOKS — New; Rare; Old



KUNZ — The Book of the Pearl, a most fascinating treatise and a gem of the bookmaker's art $50.00

BAUER — Edelsteinkunde (in German), authoritative, many color plates, very rare.....$90.00

WILLIAMS—The Diamond Mines of Africa, original edition, bound in silk, rare.....$45.00

PIPER—How to Judge Diamonds, a small treasure chest of information and stories by the late "Prince of Gem Merchants," paper covers $ 1.00

WILLEMS—Gem Cutting.....$ 3.50

Write for list of others

J. DANIEL WILLEMS
LOCK BOX 1968
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MY SURPLUS FOR SALE

I have surplus fluorescents from years of collecting which someone else can enjoy. Fluorescents of New Jersey, Texas, Arizona and Colorado Desert (Calif.) Calcites, Shark's Teeth, Arrow Heads, Coral and several kinds of Petrified Wood, reacting under wave lengths from Mineralight to Purple X.

ALL ARE BEAUTIFUL. SOME RARE AND UNUSUAL.

MANY ARE DAZZLING IN THEIR BEAUTY.

Prices are reasonable, depending on quantity desired, the quality and scarcity of the specimen. Sent on a money back basis, if you are not happy. This is all high class material.

I also have Black Palm and slabs of quality petrified wood. Eden Valley wood unpolished, or polished to retain gorgeous brown and cream oxidation.

Correspondence with serious and discriminating collectors invited.

FLUORESCENT LAMPS
CUSTOM CUTTING (20" SAW)
LAPIDARY EQUIPMENT
GRINDING and POLISHING

ELDON SOPER

433 So. Central Ave. Glendale 4, Calif.

Joe Doak, Rockhound, comes home at night to find that friend wife has discarded the manufactured stuff in the shop, moved the incinerator, the dog-house and the clothes lines out of the back yard and installed in their place some home-made lapidary equipment. The lap is made of a "model T rear end buried in the ground end-wise to the gear housing, a steel barrel head wedged into the upper wheel and driven by a gasoline engine" (as Kirkland wrote). In the place of that fancy looking saw that was in the shop when he left in the morning, she had one whose "main bearing was a broken and discarded centrifugal pump casting, and the shaft was an automobile drive shaft; an automobile gas tank, with the top cut out forming the oil sump, and two long 5/8" stay bolts from an abandoned mine shaft forming the guides, with a couple of pieces of two-inch plank and a bolt as a vise" (More Kirkland) to complete the happy assembly.

Should he casually ask, in his gentlest tones, "What's the big idea, dear?" she would probably reply, "Well, Honey, I got this equipment for its re-sale value. We might get tired of the rock hobby and I want something we could realize on if we choose to pass it along to someone else."

We admit that there are a few manufacturers of lapidary equipment who have never lapped a flat or ground a cabochon and who know nothing of the problems involved—too many of them perhaps. On the other hand the lapidary hobby has become the third largest "doing" hobby because it is possible to go out and obtain first class manufactured equipment at a fair price and then go right to work.

In fairness to all concerned we must not confuse the issue by calling assembled equipment "home-made." It is *home-assembled*, but not home-made for it is made by a competent manufacturer with much money invested in a business that dare not fail.

Neither is it fair to assume that because a few rockhounds possess the four requisites, and actually make some workable equipment, that the hobby would advance faster if we all made our own. Nor is it at all fair to condemn manufactured equipment simply because someone spent $400.00 for it and ruined

★ STAR RUBIES ★ TITANIA ★ STAR SAPPHIRES ★

STAR RUBIES, BURMA; Fair Quality: Beautiful Rose-Red Rubies with Nice Stars. Stones to Mount of Approx. ¾ of a Carat for **$28.89** each.

TITANIA or SYN. RUTILE (H.7-7½) Top Quality: These Beautiful "Professionally" Facet Cut Stones of Canary Yellow, Green Tint, also a Light Shade of Blue, which have a myriad of Lovely Colors flashing from the many Facets of this Brilliant Stone. Titania To Mount of Approx. 1 Carat for **$16.34** each; Approx. 2 Carats for **$32.28** each; Approx. 3 Carats for **$48.33** each.

PYROPE GARNETS, AFRICA: Full Facet Cut Ovals with Beautiful Red Color. Stones to Mount of Approx. 1 Carat for **$2.50** each.

STAR SAPPHIRES, CEYLON; Good Quality; Lovely Star Sapphires with Good Stars and Colors of almost Crystal Clear to Smoky-White. Stones to Mount of Approx. 65/100 of a Carat for **$4.59** each; Approx. 1 Carat for **$6.55** each; Approx. 1½ Carat for **$10.00** each; Approx. 2 Carats for **$12.75** ea.

No. 64. HELL'S AGATE, GEM QUALITY: This Beautiful Pattern Agate varies in Colors from a Light Carnelian-Red to Sardonyx with some Clear and is surrounded by a White to Gray Matrix. 1 lb. for **$3.00**; 2 lbs. for **$5.85.**

No. 50. TURQUOISE: Gem Quality with Good Color. 1 oz. for **$3.30**; 1 lb. for **$36.64**

MONTANA AGATE, Gem Quality: Various Patterns and Colors with Pieces varying in size up to ¾ Pound. 1 lb. for **$4.26**; 2 lbs. for **$8.37**; 5 lbs. for **$20.70.**

MONTANA "ALL MOSS" AGATE, Gem Quality: All have very Good Moss Patterns and Colors of Black, White, etc., and some Pieces weigh up to Approx. 1½ Pound. 1 lb. for **$4.26**; 2 lbs for **$8.37**; 5 lbs. for **$20.70.**

Prices include All Taxes, Postage and Insurance in the continental U.S.A. Write for our Large FREE Price List. **Visitors Welcome Afternoons (including Sat. & Sun.) Closed Thursday.**

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DESERT SCENIC STONE

HOLIDAY SPECIAL AND INTRODUCTORY OFFER
Good Until January 1st, 1950

Rough, $1.00 a pound; Slabs, 25c a sq. in. *Postpaid.*

Here is a letter from one of our many satisfied customers:

New Mexico Minerals.

Dear Sir:

"A couple of months ago I sent for some desert scenic stone. It is all it is supposed to be. I would like another ten dollars worth. As I said before I would rather have quality than quantity and small pieces are all right too as we cut it into cab blanks."

Sincerely,
Earl Martin
1884 Miller
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WE BUY — SELL — TRADE

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NEW MEXICO MINERALS

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Yep! In the good old U.S.A.

Lapidary Equipment
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MAIL ORDERS HANDLED PROMPTLY
If it's found in New Mexico and we don't have it
WE'LL GET IT FOR YOU

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IT'S FREE

Camping - Trailer parking space - Maps of agate locations- Headquarter in El Paso in my big yard with a view and have a good time. Sabe, senor?

If you *MUST* spend money, pick from our huge stock piles of agate at 25c per pound.

We continue our offers in the August issue. For $10.00 a ten pound super selection of gem rainbow, plume, fortification, carnelian, moss, jasper and mahogany opal.

LAPIDARY SUPPLIES, Highland Park lapidary equipment, RX Lapidary Machines, Gem Maker units and Felker Di-Met saws.

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Gem Display boxes?

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Reasonably priced
Fast Sellers
Good profit Margin
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it. He didn't know how to use it or he would not have ruined it.

Now let us sum the whole matter up by one supposition and one question which is perfectly fair. Let us assume that the manufacturers of lapidary equipment all closed down for five years. Just how much progress would the hobby make in those years?

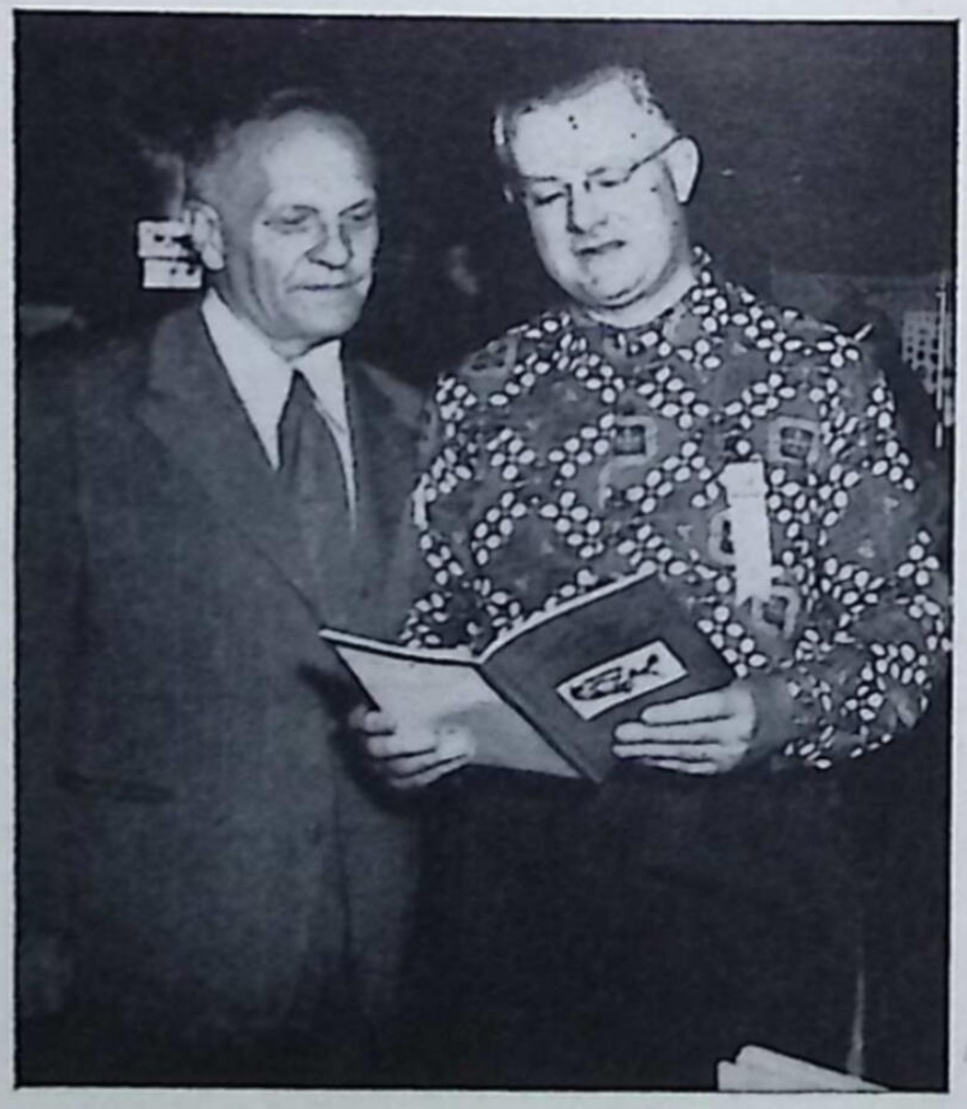
I therefore maintain that, generally speaking, this home-made stuff is junk in the true meaning of the word.

PICTURES OF THE L. A. SHOW

Pictures of the record breaking (almost 25,000 attendance) Seventh Annual Show of the Los Angeles Lapidary Society are offered on the opposite page. The society was joined by a token exhibit from almost every society in the Los Angeles area and it was officially opened by Lt. Gov. Goodwin Knight.

For the first time the society opened its exhibit to dealers and the experience was unique in that *every dealer present left the show financially ahead*—some of them *away* ahead. That has never happened before.

The Society thanks all those who contributed in any way to achieve their huge success. It is reported that as a result of the show every society in the area has received from 10 to 20 applications from newly interested people. That is the true measure of success of any show.



Lieutenant Governor of California Goodwin Knight visits the Editor at the JOURNAL booth upon the occasion of his opening the Los Angeles Lapidary Society's show.



Victor Gunderson, Pres. of Los Angeles Lapidary Soc., watches Lt. Gov. Knight gingerly facet on an M.D.R. outfit while Dan O'Brien wonders if his head wouldn't be easier on the "governor." Mrs. Knight and daughter Carolyn are interested spectators.

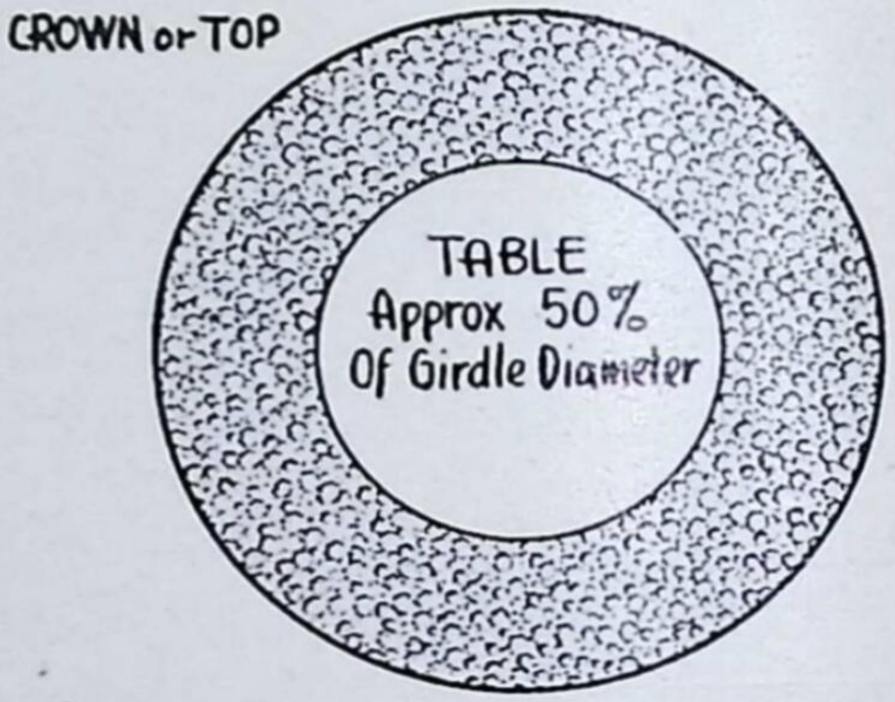


Standing on the platform is Victor Gunderson, President of the Los Angeles Lapidary Soc. Standing, left to right, are Mrs. Dorothy Pettit, Pres. San Pedro Lapidary Soc.; next two gentlemen not identified; Mrs. Audry Baum, Pres. Gem Cutters Guild of Los Angeles; Mrs. Goodwin Knight, daughter Carolyn and the Lieutenant Governor of California; R. C. Mosher, Pres. of Delvers Gem & Mineral Soc. (Downey); Harrison Stamp, Pres. San Fernando Valley Mineral & Gem Soc.; Ronald K. Miller, Pres. San Diego Lapidary Soc., (the next man in the California shirt is the Editor) then comes C. E. Hamilton, Pres. Santa Monica Gemological Soc. Squatting, left to right, is George R. Seals of the Victor Valley Mineral & Gem Soc., Ralph T. Salsbury, Pres. of San Diego Mineral & Gem Soc.; gentleman unidentified; Howard Barnes, Pres. Orange Coast Gem & Mineral Soc.; Ted Bennett, Chairman of the show; Henry Hodge, Pres. Glendale Lapidary & Gem Soc. and another unidentified gentleman. The unidentified persons are believed to be presidents of Pasadena Lapidary Soc., San Gabriel Valley Lapidary Soc., West Coast Mineral Soc. and Old Baldy Lapidary Soc. although not necessarily in that order.

◆ The Modified Brilliant Cut

FACETERS ATTENTION

We take pride in presenting herewith the third in a series of sixteen facet cuts in which we give the angles for cutting. These are the recommended angles for quartz. The recommended laps and polishing agents for other materials are given below. These charts have been prepared for us by M. D. R. Mfg. Co. (see ads on inside front cover and Page 391) and it is through their courtesy that they are being published. Those desiring to get all of the cuts NOW, rather than wait for three years, can purchase the series in a book called THE BOOK OF GEM CUTS which can be secured for $2.50 postpaid from either the authors (M. D. R. Mfg. Co.) or the *Lapidary Journal*.



GEM	Hardness	Index of Refraction	Angles Crown	Angles Pavilion	Tin Lap	Tin Type	Lead	Type	Pitch	Lucite
ANDALUSITE	7-7½	1.64	45°	41°	Tin Oxide					
APATITE	5	1.64	43°	39°	Tin Oxide		Linde A *	Linde A	Tin Oxide Linde A	
BENITOITE	6½	1.76 1.80	37°	42°	Tin Oxide					
BERYL	7½-8	1.58	42°	43°	Tin Oxide Cerium	Tin Oxide		Tin Ox. Linde A		Cerium Oxide *
CORUNDUM	9	1.76	37°	42°	6400 Diamond with kerosene *		German Tripoli	Chrome Oxide		6400 Diamond with Kerosene
EPIDOTE	6-7	1.75	37°	42°	Tin Oxide					
GARNET	6½ to 7½	1.73 to 1.89	37° 43°	42° 40°	Ruby Dix Tin Oxide			Linde A *		
OLIVINE	6½-7	1.68	43°	39°	Ruby Dix					
PHENACITE	6-7	1.66	43°	39°	Tin Oxide					
QUARTZ	7	1.55	42°	43°	Tin Oxide			Tin Oxide		Cerium Oxide *
SPINEL	8	1.72	37°	42°	Ruby Dix	Tin Oxide		E-111 *Linde A Chr.Ox.		
SPODUMENE	6-7	1.66	43°	39°	Tin Oxide					
TOPAZ	8	1.62	43°	39°	Linde A Damas. Ruby Ruby Dix			Linde A *		Linde A Cerium Oxide
TOURMALINE	7-7½	1.63	43°	39°	Ruby Dix Tin Oxide	Tin Oxide		Tin Ox. *Linde A		
ZIRCON	7½	1.92 1.95	43°	40°	Damas. Ruby Ruby Dix			Linde A *		

*Preferred

MODIFIED BRILLIANT WITH HORIZONTAL SPLIT MAIN FACETS

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES OF CUT—To deepen color in light material, particularly effective in light Amethyst, Citrine and Aquamarine.

ORDER OF CUTTING—Crown. Grind and polish table in 45° angle dop. Place dop in facet head and grind girdle at 90°.

GRIND 1st—Eight facets at 42° indexing 64-8-16-24-32-40-48-56.

GRIND 2nd—Eight break facets at 35° indexing 64-8-16-24-32-40-48-56. Breaks should be approximately ⅓ the depth of the main facets.

GRIND 3rd—Eight table facets at 27° indexing 4-12-20-28-36-44-52-60. Table facets should point up (meet) at break between 35° and 42° facets.

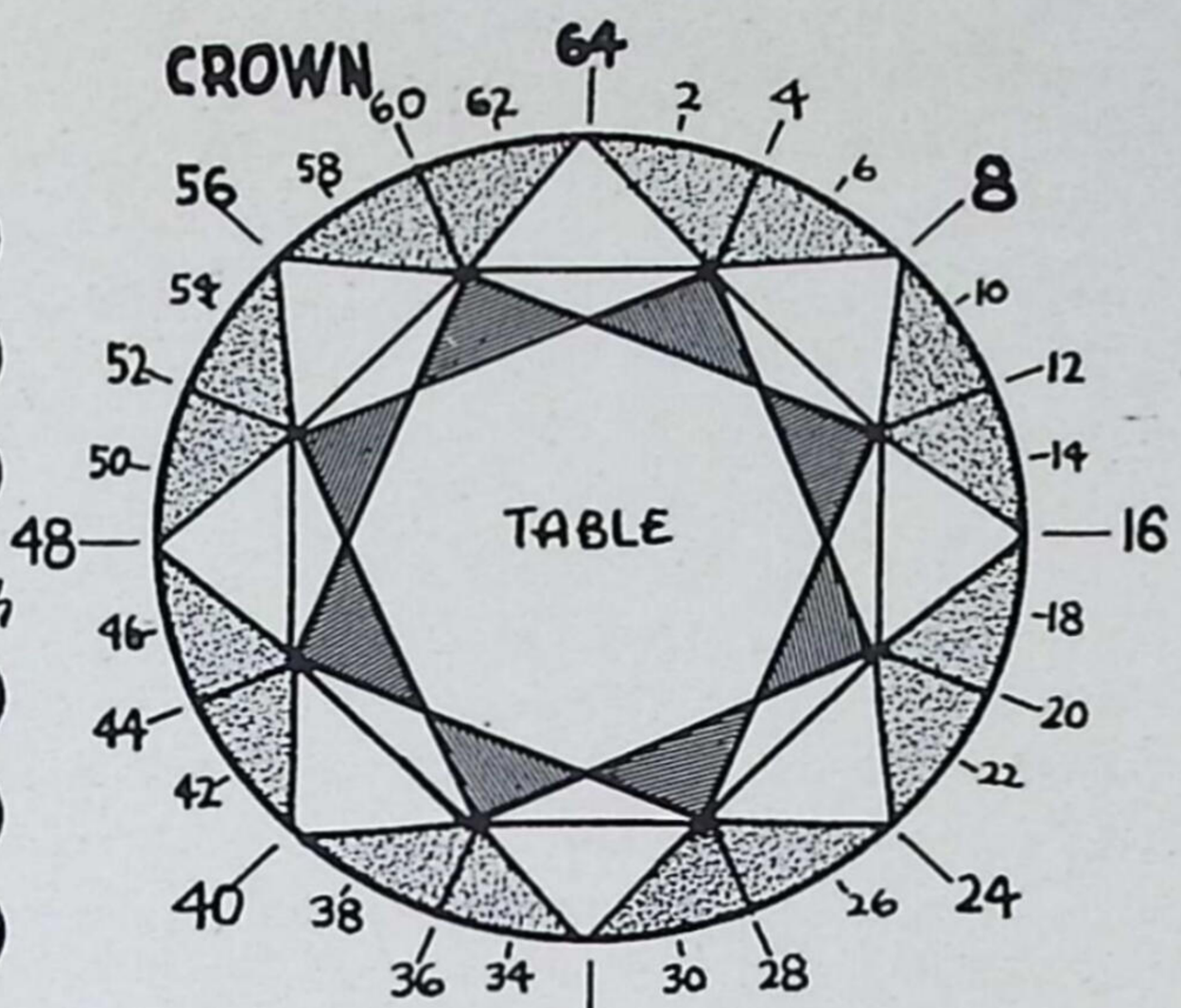
GRIND 4th—Sixteen gridle facets at 45° to 50° indexing 2-6-10-14-etc. Angle will vary to point up at girdle and table facets. Use trial and error method, if the facet tends to touch the upper corner before the facets cut at index 2 and index 62 meet at the bottom, your angle is too great (lower facet head on column). If they overlap at the girdle before they touch the upper corners, increase the angle (raise facet head on column).

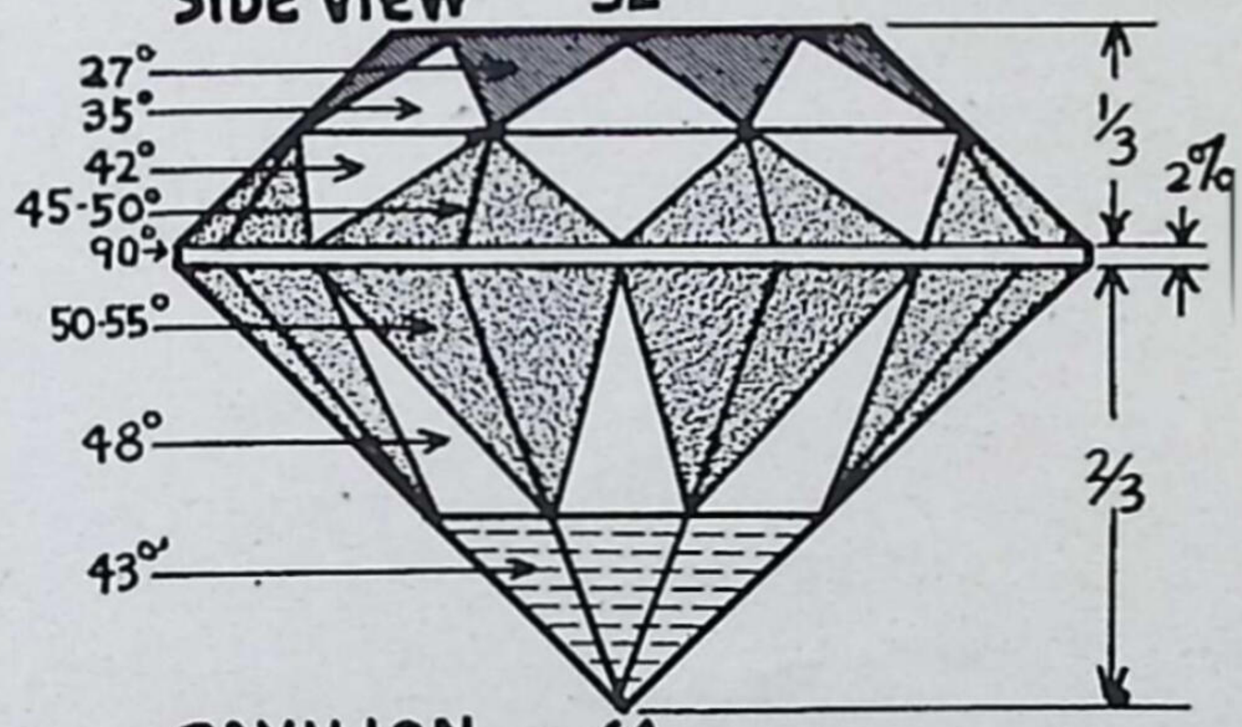
ORDER OF POLISHING
See polishing order on right, same angles and index, used in cutting.

ORDER OF CUTTING—Pavilion

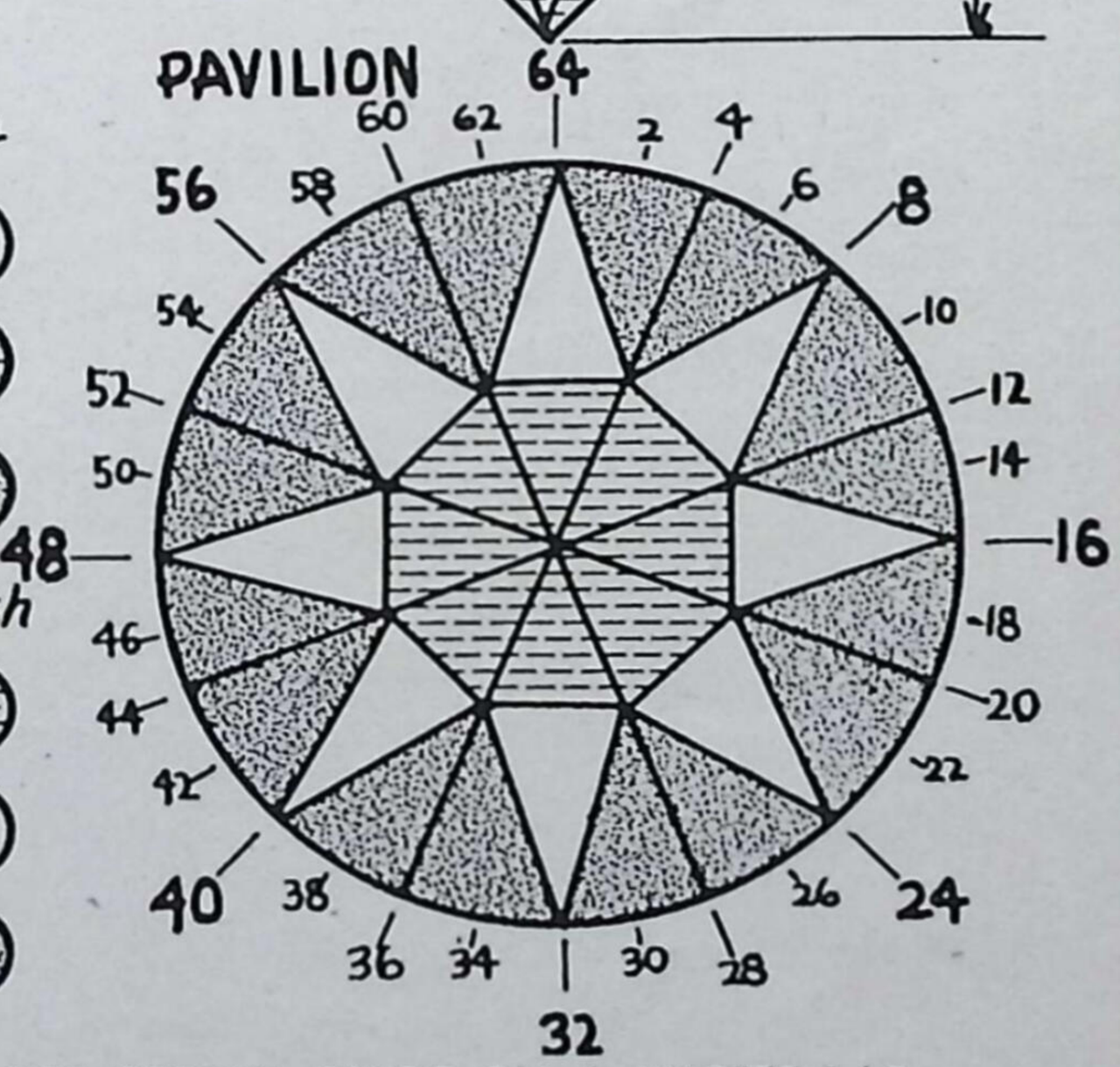
GRIND 1st—Eight facets at 48° indexing 64-8-16-24-32-40-48-56. GRIND 2nd—Eight facets at 43° indexing same as 1st grind.











USE CERIUM OXIDE ON A LUCITE LAP

GRIND 3rd—Sixteen girdle facets at 50° to 55° indexing 2-6, 10-14, etc., changing angle until the facet meets the vertical break line and the girdle.

ORDER OF POLISHING See polishing order on right, same angles and index used in cutting.

About Our Cover

Our cover this month again presents an outstanding work by Donal Hord. This is our third Hord cover and we hope there will be many more through the years by this eminent artist who received the American Academy Award last year for his work in hard materials.

The title of the subject is *REST ON THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT* and it portrays Mary and the Young Child using the resting burro as a resting place for themselves on their flight into Egypt to escape the king's order to slay every male infant. It is timely for the season and timely for our special birthstone number. Beautifully executed it is situated in a bower in the sculptor's garden that invites reflection and repose.

The figure is 31 inches high and weighs approximately 1000 pounds. It is a form of diorite known as crystal black norite and it was quarried in Spooks Canyon in San Diego County, Calif. Two man-years went into the carving and polishing and it was carved directly without a model. One of Hord's earlier massive pieces, it was finished on December 6th, 1941.

Texas Bouquet Agate

A XMAS GIFT

that can't be beat for those who want America's most beautiful moss agate gem materials.

Texas Bouquet Agate is a new rare material, sold in slabs only. You see what you get. Selections of **$5.00, $10.00** and **$20.00,** in various colors, including black in clear background. Sent postpaid.

Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded.

A. J. BURGARD

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Fine Agate Jewelry For Sale

Stop in and see me. Watch for the trailer on the right side of Holland Ave. as you drive East out of town.

A *SCIENTIFIC* GEM MINERAL COLLECTION

TO ACQUAINT collectors and lovers of gems with the rough material used in their making, Ward's has assembled an ideal set of 36 precious and semi-precious minerals. Attractively arranged in a sturdy box, with specimens individually mounted in 1½ x 2 inch trays, they are particularly desirable for study and display, instead of for cutting. *Their arrangement is scientific,* according to Kraus and Slawson's, *"Gems and Gem Materials."* This collection (MC 6), complete, is available (postpaid).....$17.80

★ ★ ★

NEW CATALOGS: If you are interested in "one-of-a-kind" mineral specimens, meteorites, or radioactive minerals, send for Ward's latest FINE MINERAL SPECIMENS. Also available, WARD'S 1950 BOOK LIST, including Kraus and Slawson ($4.50), as mentioned above.

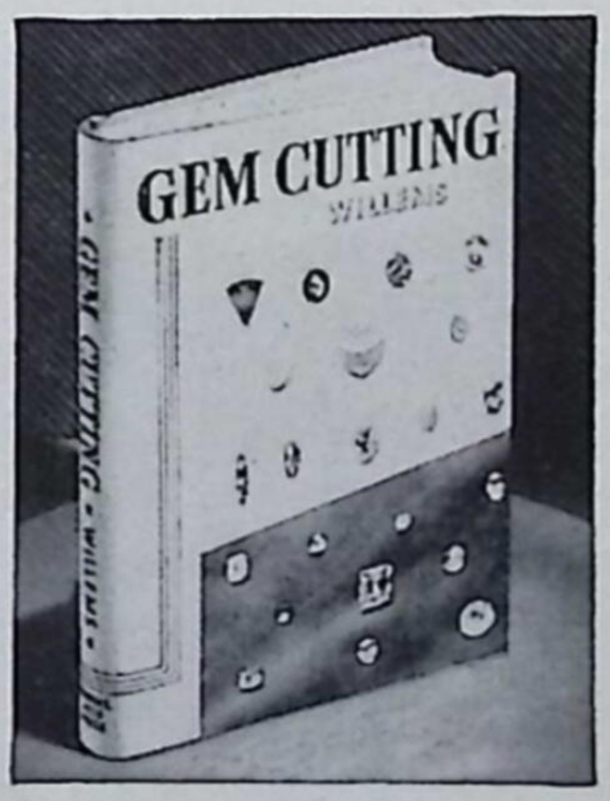
WARD'S *NATURAL SCIENCE* ESTABLISHMENT, INC.

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★ GEM CUTTING

by J. D. Willems

Of equal value to the beginner, or to the professional cutter, or anyone who is interested in this fascinating art. Clear, accurate step-by-step drawings of facet planning and cutting, including a fully illustrated chapter on the "potato" method of cutting. Cabochon cutting—finishing opaque stones with rounded surfaces— is covered in detail. Structures and other characteristics of typical gem stones are studied. Also discusses necessary equipment. $3.50.



METALCRAFT and JEWELRY

by Kronquist

Complete instructions—with photographs and drawings showing processes—for making rings and other jewelry as well as basic metal forms such as bowls and boxes. A beginner can follow this book without previous instructions. $3.00

Fundamentals of SOFT SOLDERING

by Yarkow

First complete, basic book on the subject. The uses of soldering irons, fluxes, burners, and fusing metal demonstrated in large, clear photos. All important tool uses illustrated. For everyone working in metalcraft and jewelry.....$2.25

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A New Find of Nephrite in California

By FRANK JANOKO
P. O. Box 302, Porterville, Calif.

Often it has been predicted that amateur lapidaries would make great contributions to the discovery of important new mineral localities. In few cases has the prophecy been more abundantly fulfilled than in the finding of jade deposits. Until a short time before World War II no jade localities were known in the U.S.A. In 1936 the field near Lander, Wyo. was discovered but did not become widely known until some years later. At about the same time some nephrite was found in Monterey County, Calif. Since then several localities have been discovered in the Coast Ranges in California. So far as is known to the writer, all of this material is the nephrite variety of jade.

About March 1949 a deposit of nephrite, similar to that found in the Coast Ranges, was located by one of my brothers in the Sierra foothills near Porterville, Calif. The original discovery was a piece of float which was traced up to the area now being worked. The material outcrops on the hillside in considerable quantity and up to the present time there has been no exploration beneath the surface. Neither has the full extent of the width or length of the deposit been determined with certainty.

On an adjoining hillside a single large boulder was found which measured 36"x36"x40" and 9'5" in circumference. So far no more nephrite has been found on this hill but it seems likely that adequate search will reveal it.

The material thus far mined is a dark green nephrite; hardness 6 - 6.5. Color varies from spinach green to emerald green. Some pieces have a few black spots and mottlings. Slabs are translucent emerald green or yellowish green. The best pieces polish easily to a high gloss but pieces containing impurities undercut somewhat and are nearly opaque. Some handsome jewelry has been made from selected pieces and it has been carved. Associated minerals are serpentine, talc and a little asbestos. The land on which the nephrite occurs is privately owned, is fenced, and is under lease to the partnership of JANOKO BROS. & ALLSTON. All adjoining land is also privately owned and none is open to public collecting without permission from owners. Illustrated on the opposite page are some carvings made from this jade by a local lapidary.

THE STORY OF JADE

By Herbert P. Whitlock and Martin L. Ehrmann

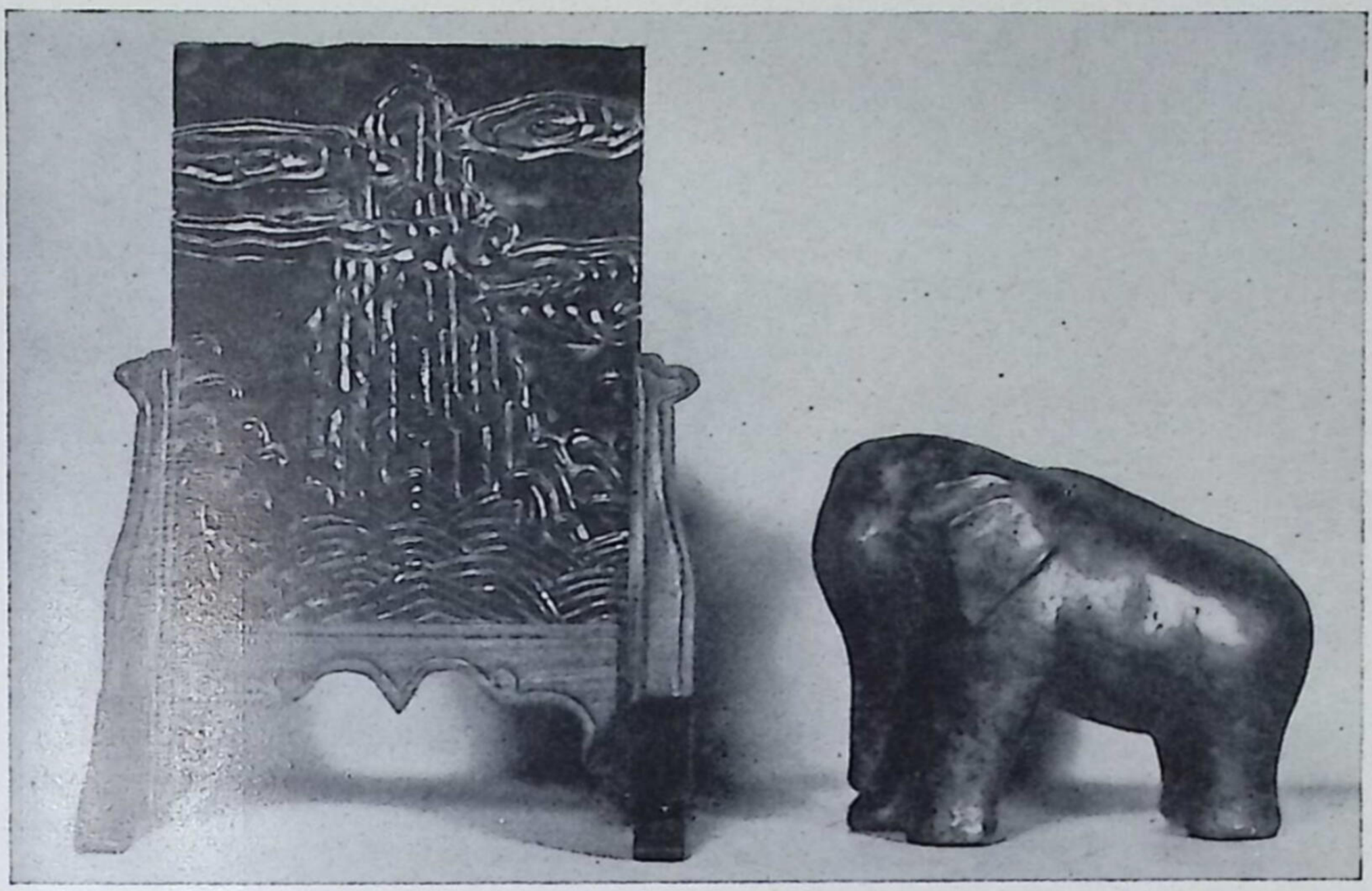
The newest book and the world's best illustrated book on Jade. Published on September 8th this book has caused more "ohs" and "ahs" than any gem book in our memory.
THE STORY OF JADE contains 179 plates in full color and black-and-white. It contains 220 pages 11 x 7" , printed in large readable type and on very heavy glazed stock.
THE STORY OF JADE gives more lapidary information than any other book on the subject; tells where jade comes from (with maps); tells you how to interpret the symbolism of the carvings on pieces you may own and thereby gauge its age.
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Birth Stones T

Month	Jews	Romans	635 A.D. Isidorus, Bishop of Seville	Arabians	Poles	Russians
Jan.	Garnet	Garnet	Hyacinth	Garnet	Garnet	Garnet Hyacinth
Feb.	Amethyst	Amethyst	Amethyst	Amethyst	Amethyst	Amethyst
March	Jasper	Bloodstone	Jasper	Bloodstone	Bloodstone	Jasper
April	Sapphire	Sapphire	Sapphire	Sapphire	Diamond	Sapphire
May	Chalcedony Carnelian Agate	Agate	Agate	Emerald	Emerald	Emerald
June	Emerald	Emerald	Emerald	Agate Chalcedony Pearl	Agate Chalcedony	Agate Chalcedony
July	Onyx	Onyx	Onyx	Carnelian	Ruby	Ruby Sardonyx
Aug.	Carnelian	Carnelian	Carnelian	Sardonyx	Sardonyx	Alexandrite
Sept.	Chrysolite	Sardonyx	Chrysolite	Chrysolite	Sardonyx	Chrysolite
Oct.	Aqua-marine Beryl	Aqua-marine Beryl	Aqua-marine Beryl	Aqua-marine Beryl	Aqua-marine Beryl	Beryl
Nov.	Topaz	Topaz	Topaz	Topaz	Topaz	Topaz
Dec.	Ruby	Ruby	Ruby	Ruby	Turquoise	Turquoise

rough The Ages

Italians	18th to 20th Century	Encyclopedia Brittanica "Current Acceptance" 1947	Webster's Unabridged Dictionary	Present Popular List
Jacinth Garnet	Hyacinth, Garnet	Garnet	Garnet	Garnet
Amethyst	Amethyst, Hyacinth, Pearl	Amethyst	Amethyst	Amethyst
Jasper	Jasper, Bloodstone	Bloodstone	Jasper, Bloodstone	Bloodstone, Aqua-marine
Sapphire	Diamond, Sapphire	Diamond	Diamond, Sapphire	Diamond
Agate	Emerald, Agate	Emerald	Emerald	Emerald
Emerald	Emerald, Agate, Cat's Eye, Turquoise	Pearl	Agate	Pearl, Moonstone
Onyx	Turquoise, Onyx, Ruby	Ruby	Turquoise	Ruby
Carnelian	Sardonyx, Carnelian Moonstone, Topaz	Sardonyx	Carnelian	Sardonyx Peridot
Chrysolite	Beryl, Chrysolite	Sapphire	Chrysolite	Sapphire
Beryl	Aquamarine Beryl, Pearl, Opal	Opal	Beryl	Opal, Tourmaline
Topaz	Topaz, Pearl, Opal	Topaz	Topaz	Topaz, Citrine
Ruby	Ruby, Bloodstone	Turquoise	Ruby	Turquoise, Lapis Lazuli

◆ Report on the East

By LELANDE QUICK

This is being written as we are about to leave Kansas City and look homeward across the miles to California after a month in the cities of the East. We have never been as hungry for anything as we are for the welcome sight of the deserts and mountains of our adopted state. The East never looks lovelier than it does in October and we have feasted our eyes upon the reds and yellows of the hills and valleys of a dozen states during the whole month of October. Now we look eagerly for the browns of the Southwest to be followed soon by the earliest Spring in America. It is all a good land and one could really be happy anywhere in it but no place looks as good as home and no faces or voices can match those which are dear.

We have had a good look at the amateur gem cutting movement in America and we mean a *good* look. Beginning in New York we had the high satisfaction of speaking at a special meeting sponsored by the New York Mineral Club (the oldest in the country) at which we organized a lapidary society that began with an initial roster of 46. We again visited the halls of the American Museum of Natural History, where we spoke, and refreshed our memory of the magnificent gems upon which we had gazed on many afternoons in our youth. Dr. Frederick Pough showed us many "behind the scenes" items and our afternoon with him was one of the most profitable we have ever spent. As this appears he will be lecturing throughout the West. If your society has scheduled him for a program do go to hear him for he will present, in his colored film of the eruption of Paricutin, one of the most interesting evenings of your life.

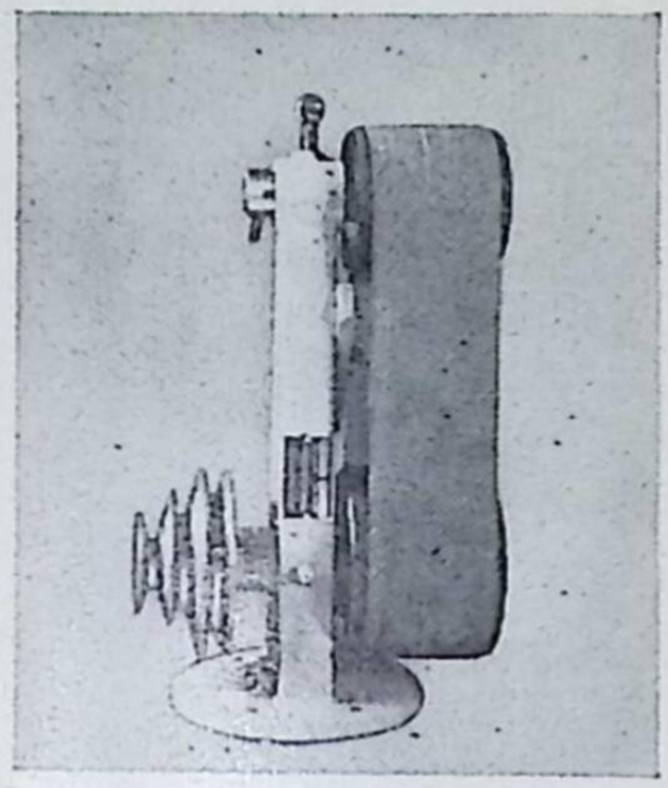
The interest in lapidary work in the New York area has reached enormous proportions and is only held back by the lack of space for equipment. We told the apartment dwellers there that if they had room for a mixmaster or a portable sewing machine they had room for the new, small and efficient lapidary machines now available.

At Washington we had the great pleasure of addressing the first meeting of the new lapidary society there. Our visit to the National Museum was something we had long looked forward to and it was not disappointing except for the famous Roebling opal. Reputed to be the largest and best opal in the World we wouldn't trade it for a half dozen of the Mexican opals we saw later at the Cleveland museum. Indeed the National Museum itself has several opals we regard as finer than the Roebling opal. We had an interesting visit with Dr. Foshag and James Benn at the Museum but it was entirely too short.

While in Washington we went to see Mr. James Anderson in Baltimore, now famous for his starting so many on the road to making silverware with agate handles. William Baxter, author of *Jewelry, Gem Cutting and Metalcraft*, drove us back to Washington. We have written the introduction to Mr. Baxter's new book on gem cutting to be published about February 1st.

Business took us to Pittsburgh and south again to Huntington, W. Va., where inquiry revealed that the lapidary movement had never been heard of by anyone we visited. Arrival at Cleveland, after a short visit at Columbus, brought us to the real hot bed of the lapidary art in the East. The Cleveland Lapidary Society had a very large turnout for our talk at the Case Institute of Technology, which followed a dinner tendered by their officers and Board. These people made our several-day stay highly enjoyable and in their museum we saw the best collection of Mexican opal we have ever seen.

At Detroit we spoke to a large group at the Cranbrook Institute of Science at Bloomfield Hills. 35 persons of those attending signed the roster of a new lapidary society formed after the meeting. At Cranbrook we saw one of the finest groups of college buildings in the country and Dr. Hatt, the Director, deserves great credit indeed for the mineral and gem display he has garnered in the mu-



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HARRY M. KOONS, *Director*

seum and particularly for the way in which he has displayed the material. The highlight of the exhibit is the reputedly finest collection of opal in the country, made possible by generous contributions and loans of A. N. Goddard of Detroit and Nelson Whittemore of Santa Barbara. We also visited the finest lapidary shop in the east, that of Wm. E. Beresford.

At the Academy of Sciences in Chicago we faced our biggest throng; several hundreds in a joint meeting of all the societies there, attended by gem cutting enthusiasts from several nearby states. Both Minnesota and Wisconsin had large delegations present and we met many *Journal* subscribers and authors with whom we have corresponded, such as Dr. Daniel Willems, author of *Gem Cutting*, Arch Nisbet and Oscar Anderson, who have fine articles in this issue; Ben Hur Wilson and Frank Fleener, Ray Mitchell, Herbert and Oriol Grand-Girard and many other names well-known in the gem world. These folks were anxious for a little advice on how to tackle their big responsibility of handling the national federation convention next June in Milwaukee. After talking to a number of them we are confident they have good leadership for the event and that they will present the best meeting and show yet held. The people in the midwest have many marvellous mineral and gem collections and of course they lead the rest of the nation in their fossil collections.

The large turnout at Kansas City agreeably surprised us. The society from Independence joined with the Heart of America Geology Club at the University of Kansas City to hear us and show their rocks. We visited Dr. Leland Jones' home to see his fine collection. Then we visited our great friend Dr. Ralph E. Mueller, who had flown with Mrs. Mueller to Chicago to hear our talk.

Many times we have stood in the presence of so much material that it was impossible to really observe anything but Dr. Mueller has more gem material than any human has ever gathered under one roof. An advertiser since our beginning in these pages, he has fourteen diamond saws; almost one each of every make on the market. His prize is a Lane 36 bladed gangue saw. Dr. Mueller has a huge collection of antique jewelry that fills many cases in his large home but the most im-

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pressive thing he has is the thousands upon thousands of thin slabs he is readying for the largest lapidary exhibit ever presented by one man. This will be shown at Milwaukee next June. The general idea all over the mid-west seems to be "we'll show those coast birds something." After our previews we are sure they will.

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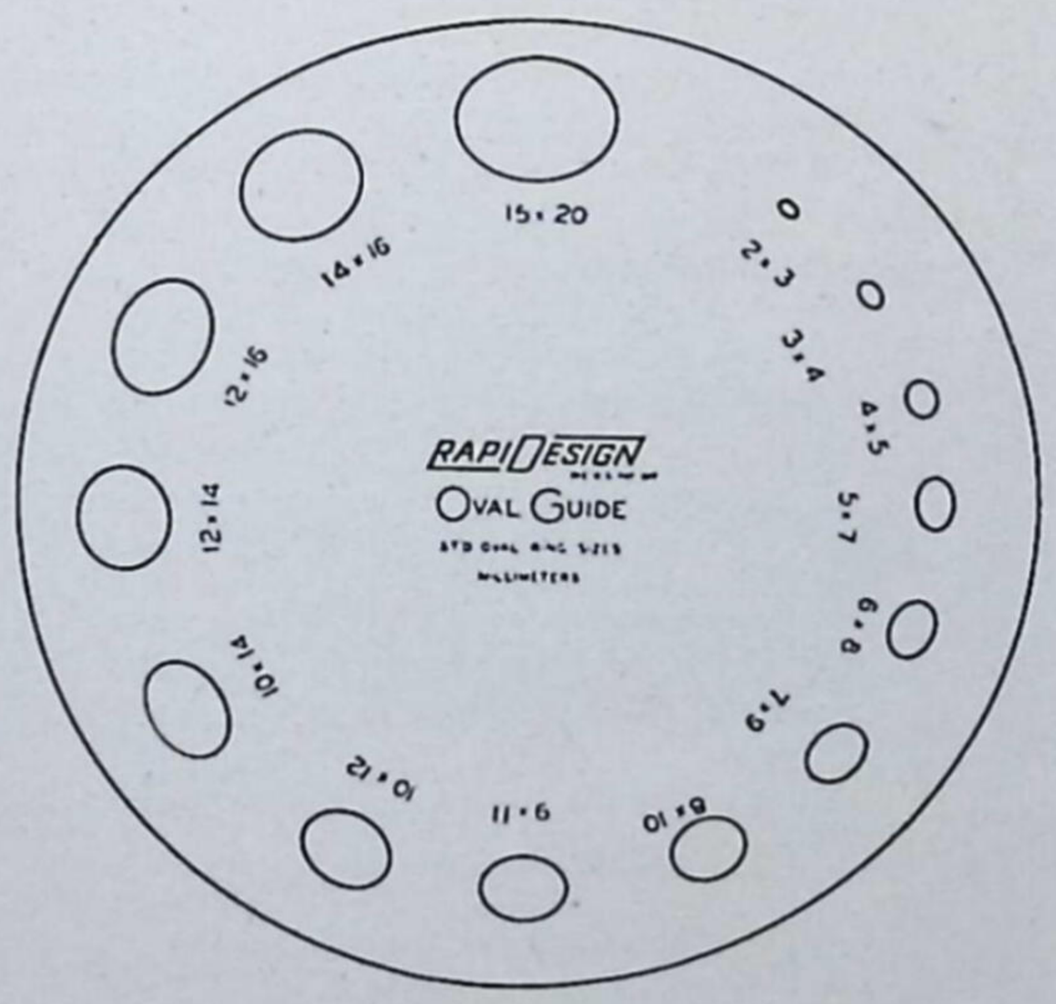
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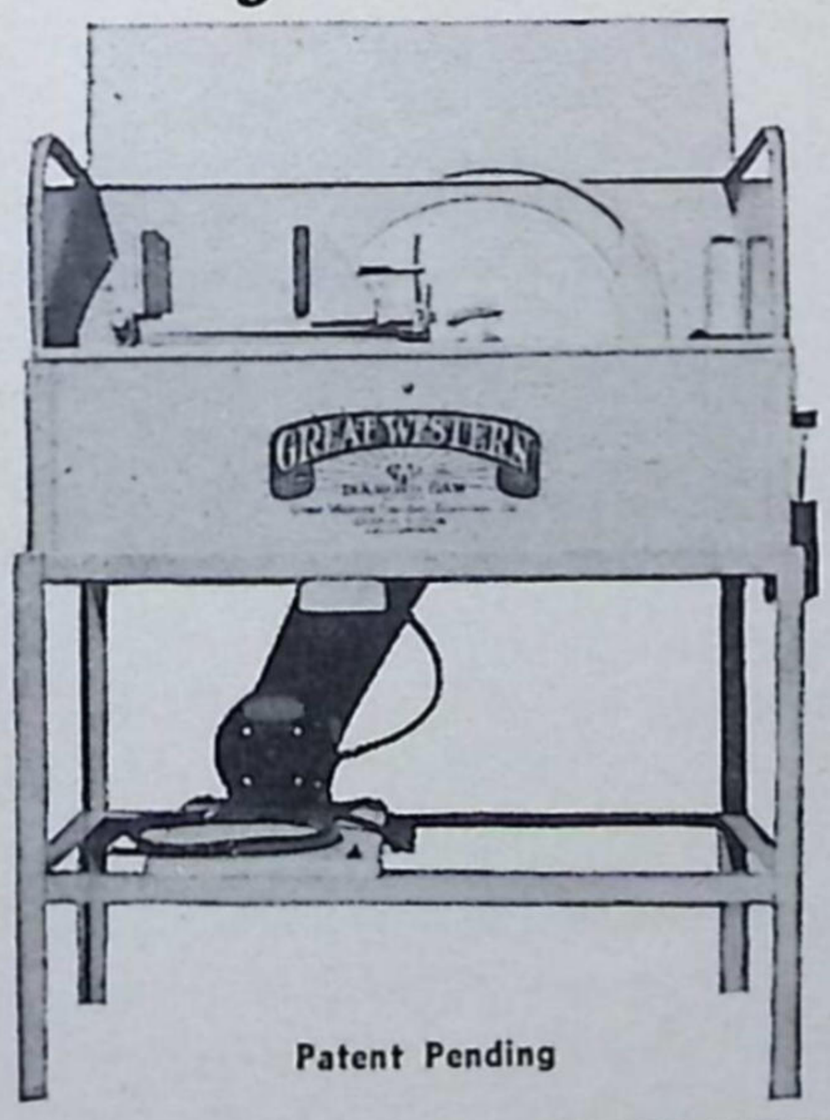
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◆ Identification of Gem Stones

By ROBERT M. SHIPLEY, JR.
Certified Gemologist of Gem Instruments, Co., 6063 W. 3rd St., Los Angeles

(Part Two)

As has been pointed out, refractive index is probably the most valuable single property from the standpoint of identifying an unknown gemstone. However, refractive index alone is not a sound basis for forming a final opinion, since two or more minerals may have the same index. While a determination of refractive index will very sharply limit the number of possibilities, it is usually necessary to make one or more additional tests in order to arrive at a definite identification.

A second test which can be performed with the refractometer is the measurement of birefringence, which is the amount of double refraction. In order to measure birefringence with the necessary accuracy, several accessories are desirable. Of these, the most valuable (but unfortunately the most expensive) is a source of monochromatic light. Such a source completely removes the spectrum from the refractive index shadow edge and the readings thus obtained can be estimated to .001. Lacking a monochromatic light source, the next best method is to use a polarizing eyepiece and a color filter with ordinary white light. The color filter sharpens the shadow edge so that estimation of .002 is usually possible; and the polarizing eyepiece, upon rotation, shows first one index and then the other. The stone is placed on the refractometer in the usual manner and a series of readings are made for different positions of the stone as it is turned, about 10° at a time, on the dense glass surface At each such position the highest and lowest indices are noted during a revolution of the polarizing eyepieces. When this series of readings is completed, the lowest index found at any point is subtracted from the highest found at any point, and the result is the value for birefringence. With practice this test can be made with a good degree of accuracy, and the figure thus obtained is very useful in identification.

Obviously, if a stone reads zero birefringence, it is probably singly refractive. However, many stones have such a low value for birefringence that it is not possible to prove its presence definitely without the use of other instruments. In such cases, the polariscope is a very valuable piece of equipment. This instrument consists fundamentally of two polarizers oriented so that the analyzer (or eyepiece polarizer) blocks off the light which is transmitted by the first polarizer. A singly refractive stone, being optically inactive, will have no effect on the light; and when a singly refractive stone is turned about between the analyzer and polarizer, it will remain dark. Doubly refractive gems have the power of altering the light transmitted by the polarizer in such a way that it can pass through the analyzer. As a result, a doubly refractive stone rotated between the polarizer and analyzer will show successively light and dark positions, becoming light four times during a complete revolution. The polariscope is, therefore, of decided value in gem identification, since it conclusively distinguishes between singly and doubly refractive materials. A serviceable polariscope is available from *Gem Instruments* for $12.50.

A colored stone which is doubly refractive has in addition the power of exhibiting pleochroism, which is a variation in color between the polarized rays transmitted through it. This effect can be seen in a polariscope by removing the analyzer, or by turning the analyzer so that it transmits the maximum amount of light which passes the polarizer. When revolved in a polariscope thus adjusted, a doubly refractive colored stone will change color every 90°. However, when the amount of pleochroism is slight, the effect may be difficult to observe and the instrument known as the dichroscope will prove more satisfactory.

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The dichroscope employs the extremely high birefringence of calcite to produce a pair of images of its entrance aperture. Since the two images result from two rays which are polarized at right angles to one another, a pleochroic stone observed through the dichroscope will show two different colors simultaneously. The dichroscope is so constructed that the images of the aperture are side by side and the colors seen may be compared directly. By means of this direct comparison, very faint pleochroism can be studied. An excellent dichroscope is available at $9.75; less effective models can be had for as little as $5.00.

The foregoing has covered optical properties exclusively. In addition to these, every mineral has a series of physical properties of which the most important are specific gravity, hardness, luster, fracture, and cleavage. Of these only specific gravity may safely be used in testing fashioned gemstones. Hardness is not an extremely accurate test and is, therefore, not often of great value for gem identification, even if it could be applied without injuring the specimen. Specific gravity, however, is a most valuable test; its greatest disadvantage is that it cannot be applied with mounted stones as can all of the foregoing optical tests.

The most accurate specific gravity determination is obtained by weighing the unknown gem in air and by then weighing it immersed in water. These two weights are then applied to the formula:

$$\text{gravity} = \frac{\text{weight in air—weight in water}}{\text{weight in water}}$$

When obtained by this method, the specific gravity values vary in accuracy with the accuracy of the balance used. With small gemstones a balance capable of reading to $\pm$ 2 milligrams ($\pm$ .01 carats) or better is required. Since such a balance is quite expensive, it is often sufficient to have at hand a graduated series of dense liquids by means of which the specific gravity of stones may be more roughly classified. For gemstone identification a set of three liquids having gravities of 2.7, 3.0, and 3.32 are usually sufficient; such a set can be obtained for about $7.50.

When one or more tests have been applied to an unknown stone, these must be correlated with tables of known con-

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	D	4.31	5.28	6.47	9.10	11.63
1½	A	4.70	5.81	7.08	10.31	13.66
	B	5.00	6.31	7.70	11.20	14.85
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	D	5.70	7.06	8.62	12.55	16.63

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stants in order to ascertain which gem or gems they fit. The tables which accompany this article cover only the major gemstones and substitutes, but they give an idea of the type of reference material which should be at hand. The tables here are based on the assumption that refractive index will be determined first for transparent material, and that the specific gravity of non-transparent stones will be obtained. If refractive index or specific gravity is unobtainable, other tables will be required. These are most readily available in several of the texts on gemstones; the "Handbook of Gem Identification" by R. T. Liddicoat, Jr., is especially recommended.

A device which has proved of great value in making more rapid and more accurate identifications is the Sortagem manufactured by Gem Instruments. This is a keysort file of over 100 individual cards, each carrying the complete properties of a single gem species. By means of the notched holes, keysorting can be done on the basis of any of the important properties and, therefore, it is unnecessary to have a large number of tables. Since the Sortagem is very complete, carrying full data on each species, it is a fairly expensive item, retailing at $25.00.

TRANSPARENT GEMS

Refractive Index	Polariscope	Additional Test	Name of Stone
No reading (4.0 - 4.8)	Double	Double facet edges	Zircon
No reading (3.8 - 4.3)	Single	May show anomalous double refraction	Garnet
No reading (any S.G.)	Single	Luster brighter on crown than on base	Garnet and Glass Doublet
1.77 to 1.79 (3.9 - 4.3)	Single	May show anomalous double refraction	Almandite
1.77 to 1.79 (any S.G.)	Single	Luster brighter on crown than on base	Garnet and Glass Doublet
1.76 to 1.77 (4.0)	Double	Liquid inclusions, crystals, or silk	Corundum
1.76 to 1.77 (4.0)	Double	Bubbles or curved striae	Synthetic Corundum
1.76 to 1.77 (3.8)	Single	Purple color	Rhodalite Garnet
1.75 (3.7)	Double	Noticeable dispersion	Chrysoberyl
1.75 (3.6)	Single	Brown color, strain pattern in polariscope	Hessonite (Grossularite)
1.74 to 1.75 (3.7)	Single	Red color	Pyrope
1.73 (3.6)	Single	"Cross-hatched" strain pattern in polariscope	Synthetic Spinel
1.72 to 1.73 (3.6)	Single		Genuine Spinel
1.66 to 1.70 (3.35)	Double	Sinks in methylene iodide	Peridot
1.66 to 1.70 (3.2)	Double	Floats in methylene iodide	Spodmene
1.66 to 1.70 (3.4 - 3.7)	Single		Glass
1.61 to 1.65 (3.0 - 3.1)	Double	Floats in methylene iodide	Tourmaline
1.61 to 1.64 (3.5)	Double	Sinks in methylene iodide	Topaz
1.61 to 1.64 (2.7 - 3.6)	Single		Glass
1.56 to 1.59 (2.75)	Double		Beryl
1.56 to 1.59 (any S.G.)	Double	Shows separation plane	Beryl Doublet or Triplet
1.54 to 1.55 (2.65)	Double		Quartz
1.54 to 1.55 (any S.G.)	Double	Shows separation plane	Quartz Doublet or Triplet
1.54 (2.60)	Double	Does not extinguish in polariscope; waxy luster on fractures	Chalcedony
1.52 to 1.54 (2.5 - 2.6)	Double	Extinguishes in polariscope	Feldspar
1.50 to 1.60 (2.5 - 3.2)	Single	Luster vitreous on fracture surfaces	Glass
1.44 to 1.46 (2.1 - 2.2)	Single	Girasol effect or play of colors, has genuine inclusions	Opal

NON-TRANSPARENT GEMS

Specific Gravity	Color	Polariscope	Additional Tests	Name of Stone
4.9 - 5.3	Black or dark red	Opaque	Red Streak	Hematite
5.0 - 5.2	Brassy	Opaque	Black or gray streak	Pyrite
4.6 - 4.9	Brassy or steely	Opaque	Black or gray streak	Marcasite

(Continued on page 368)

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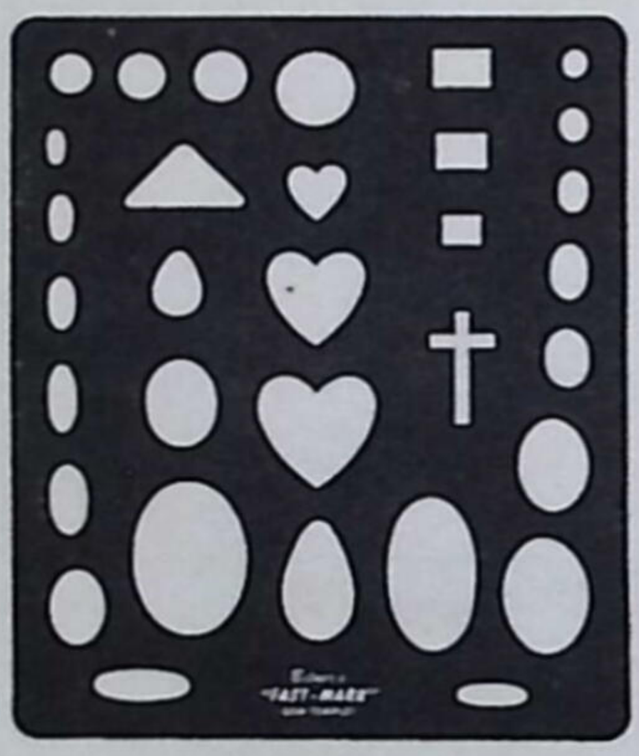
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(Continued from page 366)

3.9 - 4.0	Green	Opaque	Green streak	Malachite
3.7 - 3.9	Blue	Opaque	Blue streak	Azurite
3.6	Green to white	Single	May show black specks	Grossularite
3.3	Green, white, and other colors	Double	Sinks in methylene iodide or *barely* floats	Jadeite
2.9 - 3.1	Green, white, and other colors	Double	Floats in methylene iodide	Nephrite
2.7 (2.6 - 2.9)	Light blue or light green	Double	Dull luster on fractures	Turquoise
2.7 (2.4 - 2.9)	Dark blue	Single	Usually has gold pyrite specks	Lapis Lazuli
2.6	All colors, and white and black	Double	Waxy to dull luster on fractures	Chalcedony
2.55	Light green to dark green	Double	Vitreous luster on fractures; laminated	Amazonite
2.2 to 5.0	All colors	Single	Vitreous luster on fractures	Glass
2.1 - 2.2	Black, white, or brown	Single	Usually has play of color	Opal
1.2 to 2.0	All colors	Single	Floats in carbon tetrachloride	Plastic Imitation
1.05 - 1.09	Usually brown	Single	Floats in saturated salt solution	Amber



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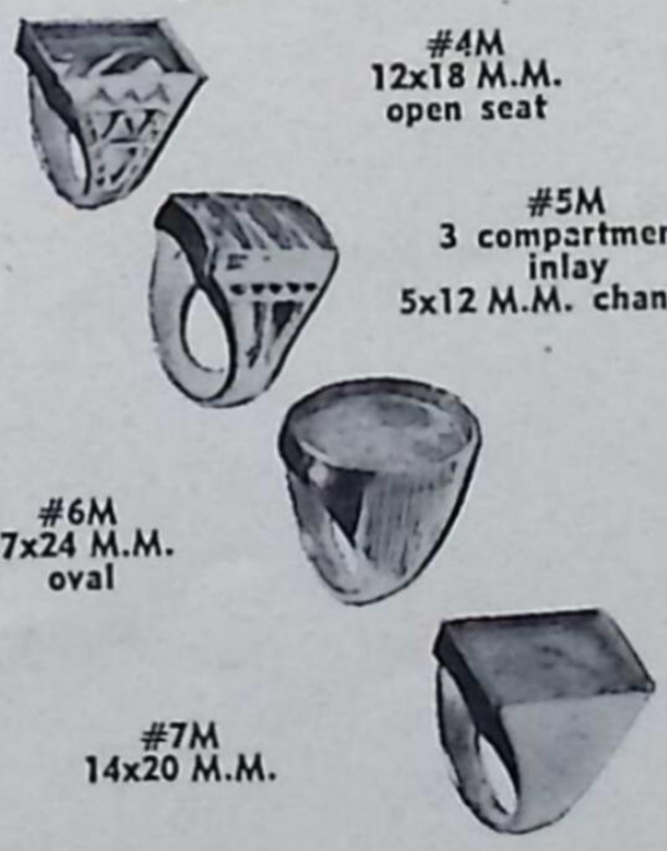
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Finding *choice* Montana agate is getting *tougher* each year as the picture changes.

I now offer 15 slices cut from agates gathered near Glendive, Mont. Each slice is a *beautiful over-sized gem* with gorgeous colorings and typical markings. NO DUDS!

15 slices for $5.00
30 slices for $8.50
Please include 15c postage

EXTRA SPECIAL—Choice SELECTED small agates. Each contains beautiful DENDRITES, bands or scenes. No duds. Will make dozens of fine cabochons.

1 pound for $5.00
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FREE WITH EACH ORDER!! My own famous super agate polishing method that produces that MIRROR FINISH.

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Our sphere materials:

Petrified dinosaur bone
Variegated "onyx"
Petrified woods—Ricolite
Seven devils
50c a pound in the rough plus postage

Our cabochon approvals:

Assorted Selections or the
Famous Colorado Plume Agate group
Price range $1.00 and up.

Our Birthstone Buttons:

Mounted in sterling silver or gold. Price range: $1.25 and up, depending upon your birthstone and mounting.

Our gift merchandise approvals:

Gold or silver jewelry
Gemstone buttons, Photo scenic lamp shades, etc.

What are your needs?
We are at your service.
Correspondence invited.

SHIPLEY'S MINERAL HOUSE
Gem Village Bayfield, Colorado

Our Christmas Special

for only $3.00
plus postage

2 petrified sponges
(fossil algae)

1 lb. fluorescent chalcedony

5 Badlands geodes

1 Fairburn agate

5 Sweetwater agates

2 lbs. Rose quartz

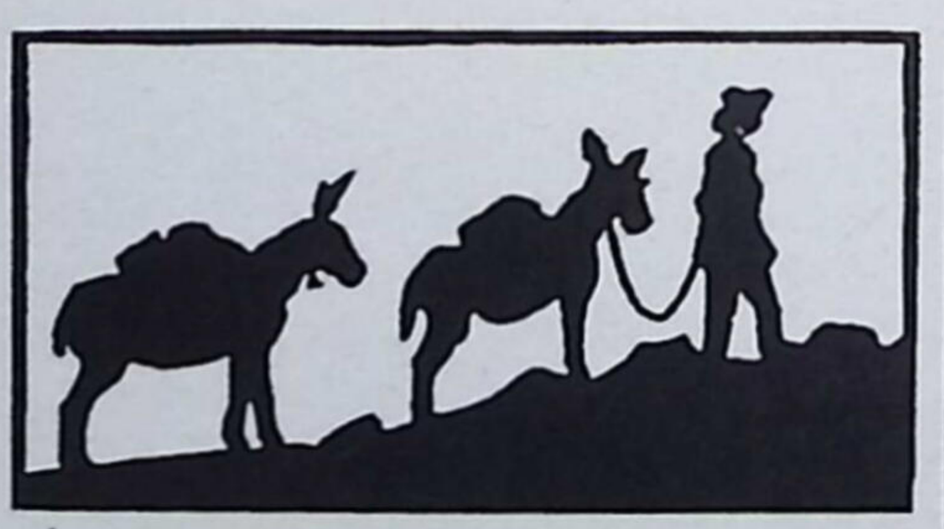
Plastic ring holders—6 on a bar.....$1.50
(2 bars for $2.75) Singles $3.00 per doz.

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LET'S HAVE YER XMAS ORDERS ON CUTTING AND MOUNTING

We make ever'thing to order and subject to yer approval.

We think we have about the best bargains in these yere parts. An yer know sump'n? *We could be right!*



That's Me on the Right

We'll soon have another batch of Parrilized wood book ends too. Just say the word and we'll send an approval selection of gem materials, blank mountings, finished stones, paper weights n'other stuff.

We'll make almost anythin' y' want from yer own material.

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An exceptionally complete stock of nearly all known gem stones except Diamond, including a great variety of fine rough materials. Present stock includes emerald in practically all grades, Star Ruby and Sapphire; Amethyst, Opal, Tourmaline, Chrysoberyl, Cats-Eyes, Jade, Zircon, Chrysocolla, Turquoise, Cultured Pearls, Aquamarine, Almandine and other Garnet. Many others.

We furnish on memo for resale complete displays of all known gem materials, finished and rough, mounted and unmounted, to well established stores and particularly those identified with the American Gem Society. Inquiries invited.

Material sent on approval to old customers; others please remit half of purchase price or furnish bank reference. Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded.

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440 Columbus Avenue New York 24, N.Y.

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Maurice A. Hamonneau
formerly with the American Museum of Natural History
Wishes to all his friends and clients

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

We are the East Coast Agents for:

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We have the World's largest stock of Fluorescent and Phosphorescent Minerals, a large collection of out of print books and many thousand rare specimens.

Write us for information.

Have you something to offer us?

Come to see us when you are in New York.

CHINESE FILIGREE SILVER JEWELRY

Exquisitely made. Priced low for fast sale.
Wholesale and Retail
Dealers must furnish resale number and references.

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PLASTIC CABINETS, SHOW CASES, TRAYS, SAW HOODS, etc., made to order.

AMERICAN PLASTICS CO.
204 Myrtle Rd. Burlingame, Calif.

Have you your equipment and supply of rocks so you can enjoy these long winter evenings? We stock Hillquist, Covington, Felker, and the new Brehm saw units; the new Mineralights, Brazilian agate, etc. Write for prices. Better yet—stop in and see them.

Merry Christmas to all and good rocks for next year.

THE HODGE PODGE SHOP
GRANTS PASS, OREGON
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4½ Miles South on Highway 99

THE BMC ROCK CRUSHER

For removing surplus material from slabs. Remove more material in an hour than can be ground off in two!!

Save wear and tear on valuable wheels. Pays for itself in a short while.

Used by many outstanding lapidaries.

How can you afford to be without one?

Two sizes—7⅛ and 8½" at $2.70 and $3.00
Top grade Tigereye—$2.25 a pound—35c a sq. in. Virginia Unakite and Pennsylvania Cuprite $1.25 a pound—25c a sq. in.

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First Simulated

STAR SAPPHIRES

These beautiful cornflower cabochons (color of the finest star sapphires) show six-rayed star under direct light.

1 Stone $1 — 6 for $5 — 12 for $8.75

If you are interested in quantity inquire for special prices.

NEW ENGLAND DIAMOND CORP.
43 W. 47th St. New York 19, N. Y.

TELEVISION FOR SHOWS

On August 9 the San Diego Lapidary Society made what is believed to be the first lapidary demonstration over television, the program being over Radio station KFMB—TV, channel 8 in San Diego.



Members taking part, left to right: Mrs. D. Dietrick, Fred Briggs, Ronald K. Miller, Pres., Marion Shunk, the Society's first president and James Barth.

Those who took part in the show were Mrs. D. Detrick, M. Shunk, and J. Barth. They were interested by Fred Briggs of station KFMB.

Mr. Shunk gave a summary of interest shown in lapidary work, his figures based on a recent survey, taken at the El Cajon Country Fair, the San Diego County Fair, and also the attendance at the adult education classes, held every evening at Horace Mann Evening High School.

Mr. Shunk also demonstrated the procedure of cutting a cabochon and explained the use of other equipment used in lapidary work.

Mr. Barth spoke and demonstrated the faceting of a gem stone, and Mrs. Dietrick showed and explained, step by step procedure in silver smithing by making a ring mounting and setting a stone, in the ring she had made.

Examples of fine cutting and polishing, faceting, and fine pieces of jewelry were displayed by the workers.

While the program was the first actual demonstration of gem cutting on television the Cleveland Lapidary Soc. is believed to have had the first gem program as they televised in April.

Subsequent to the San Diego Lapidary Society's program the Los Angeles Lapidary Society had three programs over Los Angeles stations; two of them a half hour each and another for ten minutes. Lapidary demonstrations were not given but many gems were shown and explained. Television stations are hungry for such programs as they are ideal for the television medium and publicity chairmen should keep this in mind.

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Sunset Agate slices 35 to 50c sq. in.
Dendritic slices 25c to $2.00 sq. in.

Obsidian—variegated brown & black $1.00 lb.
Montana Sunset Agate ..... $1.25 lb.
Montana Moss & banded $1.50, $3.00 and $5.00 per lb.

Christmas wrapped if you wish. Slices postpaid. Rough F.O.B.

BROCKS HOBBY SHOP

Box J. Rexford, Montana

AMETHYST (dark)
and
CITRINE (Madeira)

12x10—1 for $1.35, 6 for $6, 12 for $10
16x12—1 for $2.20, 6 for $12, 12 for $21

A special offer of exceptionally good colored stones. Slight interior flaws; hardly noticeable. All stones are perfectly polished oval brilliants.

CITRINE or AMETHYST

14x10—1 for $1.70, 6 for $9, 12 for $15
20x15—1 for $3.50, 6 for $18, 12 for $33

NEW ENGLAND DIAMOND CORP.

43 W. 47th St. New York 19, N. Y.

INSTRUCTIONS BY A COMMERCIAL CUTTER

Available now: Instructions in art of gem cutting by mail. In 5 easy to understand lessons. Also those in Chicago area can have personal instructions or as a group on our equipment. Included are necessary supplies. Also will give information as to best equipment to obtain for your money or furnish diagram of easily made equipment from easily obtained parts. Write for further information.

NEW ZEALAND JADE

We have on the way a 20 lb. piece of New Zealand Jade. Vivid green. It was purchased for us by a cutter in Australia. If interested send a postcard or better yet, a deposit. This probably won't last long as it is top grade and first to be shipped here in many years. It is prohibited by government of New Zealand to export jade. We also have some New Zealand Agate and Jasper coming.

EXTRA SPECIAL FOR COLLECTORS

I have a very rare piece of Jadeite purchased from a collection. This piece was obtained from a Chinese jade importer in 1891. It is Peacock Green, very beautiful, looks similar to American Feathery Malachite. Only about 6 sq. in. left at $50.00 an inch or will cut a piece or a gem for you. Very rare and special. Also available—Blue Jadeite in the rough. You don't have to buy a finished stone. Offered this issue only at ridiculous price of $8.00 an inch or 3 sq. in. $20.00. Also small piece of Vivid Green, $15.00. Also some Green and White, $10.00 sq. in.

DON'T MISS THESE XMAS SPECIALS

JADE

Black Canadian	3 sq. in.	$1.00
Assorted Colors	sq. in.	.45
Monterey Choice	sq. in.	.60
White Wyoming	sq. in.	.50
Blue Light, $1.50; Dark	sq. in.	2.10
Black, No. 3, 45c; No. 2 65c; No. 1	sq. in.	.80
Apple Green, No. 3, 60c; No. 2, 90c; No. 1,	sq. in.	1.25
White Jadeite	sq. in.	.75
Some Green and White, sq. in.	$3.00 to	5.00
Variscite	sq. in.	.50
Lapis	3 sq. in.	1.00
Black Agate	5 sq. in.	1.00
Chrysocolla	45c to	.65
Malachite (American)	sq. in.	.50
Malachite (African)	3 sq. in.	1.25

IMPORTED AGATES AND JASPERS

Mexico, moss fern	3 sq. in.	$1.00
New Zealand, moss		.50
Brazilian, banded	3 sq. in.	1.00
Canada	4 sq. in.	1.00
Canada Jasper	4 sq. in.	1.00
Egypt Jasper	3 sq. in.	1.00
Montana Agate	5 sq. in.	1.00
Wood (Arizona and others)	3 sq. in.	1.00
Rhodonite	5 sq. in.	1.00
Bloodstone	sq. in., 40c, 60c	1.00
Labradorite, beauty	sq. in.	.50
Peristerite	3 sq. in.	1.00
Moonstone Pebbles	6 for	.50
Agate Pebbles, large	each	.15
Tiger Eye, golden	3 sq. in.	1.00
Red, Blue, Green	4 sq. in.	1.50

PREFORMS OF ABOVE MATERIALS 40c to 50c

Send $10.00 and I'll mail you in fancy box: 1 Heart or 1 Cross of Green or Black Jade, or any of above stones $7.00 except Jadeite. Ready to wear. Ideal gift earrings to match. Damascus Ruby Powder, $1.10 ounce; 4 oz. $3.50; $9.50 lb.

CUSTOM SAWING, 4c SQ. IN. THIS ISSUE

C. WEIDINGER & SONS

WEIDINGER FOR JADE

625 W. 54th PLACE — WA. 4-2130 — CHICAGO 9, ILLINOIS

DARN THAT GREMLIN!!!

That fool Gremlin is the greatest busybody you ever saw (only you don't see him). Just before the Sacramento Mineral and Gem Convention he put together what he calls "Grab Bags." He took some of our fine Texas jasp-agate and rooted out some other splendid cutting material that he thought we had too much of and came up with sacks of good cutting material of two to three pounds each. They must have been pretty good because people at the convention came back time after time and bought more of them (one lady bought six). We found out later that our Gremlin had put a SURPRISE BONUS, worth 50c to $1.00 itself, in every fifth package. Now, we don't know which packages contain bonuses, but if you want to send $1.00 plus postage on three pounds (the Gremlin won't let us charge more), we will ship you a really worthwhile "grab bag." Perhaps you may be one of the lucky ones. . . .

★ ★ ★

For the same price of only $1.00, the Gremlin has made up some "grab bags" of already polished material. At least three fine pieces in every bag plus a bonus in every fifth bag. Shipping weight one pound.

The little runt sure causes us a lot of trouble but as he says—"QUAN FLIGIT BLURTZ." And we have no answer for that.

BE SURE AND SEND FOR OUR NEW 32 PAGE LAPIDARY CATALOG LISTING ALL KINDS OF FINE CUTTING MATERIALS, LAPIDARY EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES. IT'S *FREE!*

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California residents add 3% sales tax. Prices F.O.B. Berkeley, Calif.



Personal Facets

By LELANDE QUICK

This is the largest issue of the *Lapidary Journal* we have ever published. It is larger than we would like to publish regularly. We see no merit in size alone and if our advertising keeps increasing we shall have to limit advertising unless we can gather enough quality and useful articles to maintain a 50-50 balance. And that becomes difficult in a craft publication. Fiction magazines always have surplus stories. Business magazines can always stuff some pages with tables and reports that no one reads etc. But a craft publication must have some new and useful angle and we can be pardoned for saying that we believe we have pulled some fancy rabbits out of our big hat.

During the past month we have had two criticisms from renewing subscribers we'd like to discuss. One thought the magazine was becoming all ads. We still maintain a 50-50 ratio. Almost no other magazine in the land has a page of straight matter to match each advertising page. We have had many subscribers tell us that they never read anything but the ads anyway and that they sure like our ads. We have performed a Herculean task for our advertisers; giving each ad the same thoughtful care we give a feature article. We shall continue to maintain this 50-50 ratio, not only because it is good publication practice but it is necessary to survive.

Another criticism we have had is the use of the editorial "we." We decline to go back to the 1890's and say "the author this," the "writer that," the "*Journal* thinks" etc., etc. The use of the pronoun "I" is even worse writing. We shall therefore continue with "we" because that is accepted journalistic procedure and is so taught in all college courses on the subject.

* * * * *

This special birthstone issue is the fulfillment of a dream. And it was not our dream. It was the dream of Stephen N. Green, proprietor of the *Gem Exchange* at Bayfield, Colo. We did not cotton to the idea of a special birthstone number when Mr. Green proposed it because we didn't regard birthstones very highly. We thought they were so much mumbo-jumbo. But Mr. Green got busy and through correspondence all over the country we received manuscripts presenting the subject from every angle. A study of the subject as presented in these pages must stimulate the thinking of serious students and we have been educated a great deal indeed in our preparation of this issue. The Editor and the subscribers owe a large vote of grateful thanks to the authors who have given us these articles. They present new vistas in gem cutting and silvercraft that will stimulate the idea factories of the amateurs—and that is the high purpose of this publication. *Thank you Mr. Green!*

* * * * *

Our trip in the east revealed the fact that while more people are cutting rocks in the west certainly more people are making jewelry in the east. Almost every school and college of any importance at all in the east has a silversmith course and that is why jewelry manufacturing is centered there. The quality of the jewelry pieces we were shown did not often match the work of our western friends but the quantity was miles ahead. From the amateur standpoint the west has fewer silversmiths doing better work while the east abounds in silversmiths who need to try new ideas. Perhaps these birthstone-jewelry articles will result in some fancy items being shown at next year's shows.

(Continued on Page 376)

GEM ROUGH-LAPIDARY AND JEWELERS SUPPLIES

AMETHYST: from Brazil. Light, brilliant violet color. For cutting flawless faceted gems. Very popular material. In 8 to 20 gram pieces. @ 20c per gram.

GARNET: from South Africa. Pyrope variety. Bright red transparent material for faceted gems of good quality and fine color. In 1 to 4 gram pieces @ 60c per gram.

TIGER EYE: from South Africa. 50 pound lot in original unopened case, including the much sought-after honey-yellow color. Takes a high polish and has plenty of stripes. $60.00 per lot **EXPRESS PAID.** Also available in small quantities of good grade material. $1.75 per lb. F.O.B.

GREEN QUARTZ: from Brazil. (RARE). Transparent "A" quality medium green in color for fine faceted gems. In 1 to 7 gram pieces. @ $2.25 per gram.

CITRINE: from Brazil. Golden-orange yellow with a smoky hue, crystal clear, for fine faceted gems. In 25 to 200 gram pieces @ 25c per gram.

CARNELIAN AGATE: from Brazil. BANDED, brownish-orange to yellow in color, translucent. Sound cutting material that will cut excellent cabochons and pendant pieces showing the agate bands. Slabs 2 to 6 square inches @ 35c sq. inch.

PROFESSIONAL DOP STICK CEMENT: Do you have trouble keeping stones from popping off the dop stick? In stock now, we have this cement that will reduce most of these troubles, probably a bit more expensive than the regular cement but well worth it. 60c per quarter pound, $1.15 per half pound and $2.25 per pound.

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Is your name on our mailing list? Our new 1950 catalog is now ready for distribution. Will you receive a FREE COPY? The following items will be listed. Over 40 varieties of gem rough, lapidary supplies and tools, slabs and blanks, cut stones, books, jewelers tools, silver supplies synthetics, ring mountings, gem and ring cases and many other items. ASK FOR IT—IT'S FREE.
satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded

WARMEST SEASON'S GREETINGS

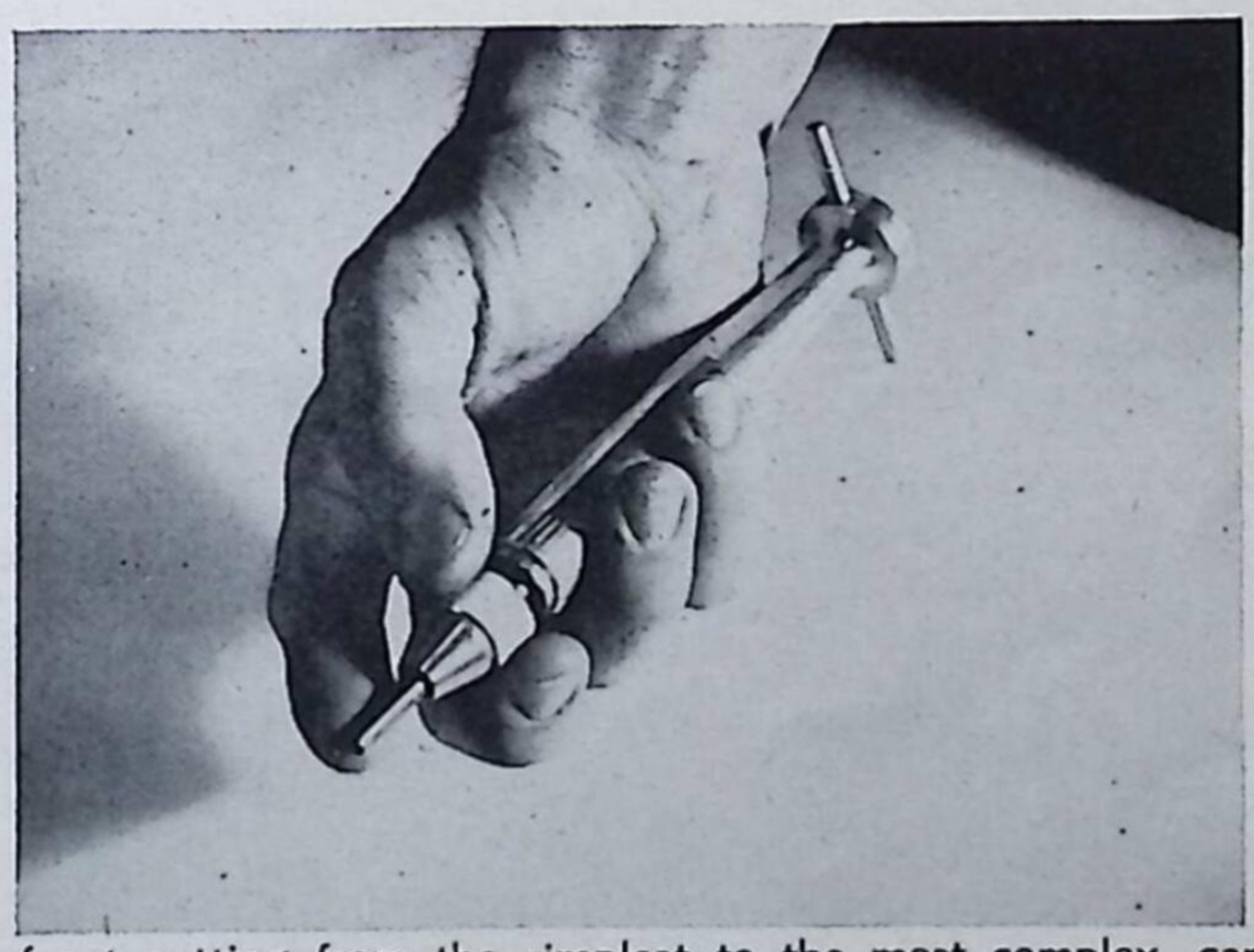
To Mr. Lelande Quick and his staff; to our many, many friends who have continued to place their trust in us; to our representatives in foreign lands for whose loyalty we are constantly grateful; to the prospectors and suppliers who entrust us with the fruit of their life-long labors; to the artists and craftsmen whose skill makes beauty bloom where none was before; to all those dear to us whose company blesses each passing hour.

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The Goal of All-Lapidaries



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(Patent Applied For)

No dops required — no stones to change — So simple a child can operate it.
(No. 7 of a series)

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FRANCIS J. SPERISEN

LAPIDARY

166 GEARY STREET **SAN FRANCISCO 8, CALIFORNIA**

Just as we go to press we have returned from a visit to the Clark County (Nevada) Gem Collectors show at Las Vegas. The publicity for this show was the best handled of any show yet. Paul Drury had four foot signs in every hotel lobby in the town, plenty of card invitations on every hotel desk and they contained a map showing how to get to the armory where the show was held. We were one of the judges and that's the way to see a show because you MUST look at every rock in the place. The displays were excellent, outstanding ones being those of Paul Drury, Paul Mercer and the jewelry of Henry Lindsay. There were many fine commercial displays also which included the Regalite display of the Royal Gem Company in Gordon's (of Long Beach) booth. This display included vases, book ends, ash trays and rutile-mounted jewelry made of Regalite, the new aventurine quartz gem material. We'd like to see the California Fedration hold a meeting at Las Vegas sometime now that the Nevada societies belong to their organization. They'd sure have a time—and a *crowd* if Paul Drury handled the publicity.

★ ★ ★

Will buy, sell or trade
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Slabs—Cutting Material or
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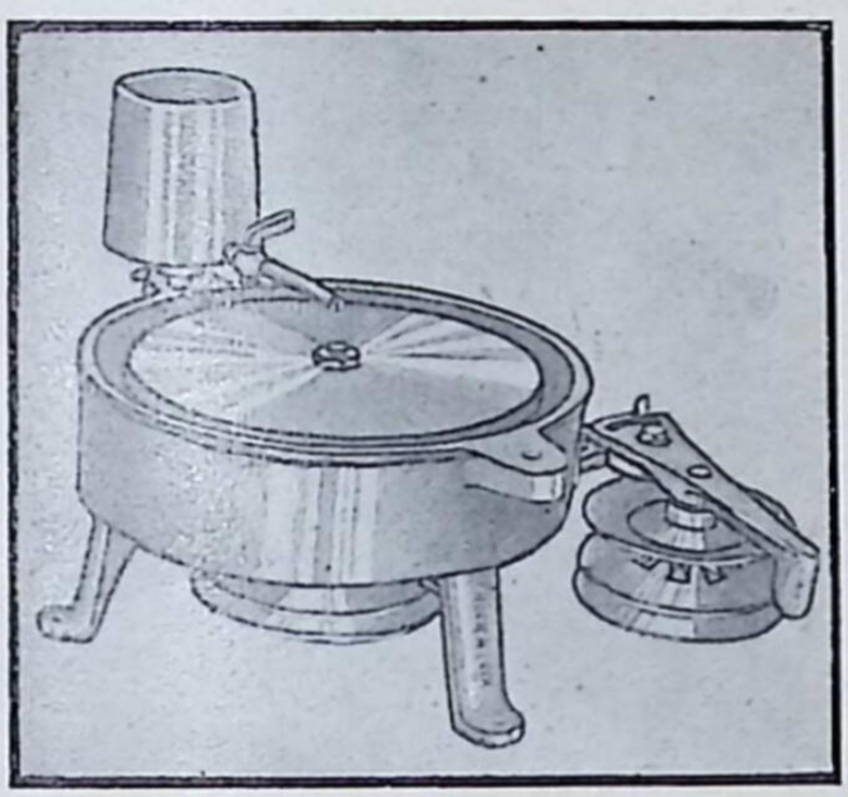
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ONLY $1.00 POSTPAID
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SAWED cabochon slabs of petrified woods, fossil bone, scenic obsidian, jaspers, agates, and other cutting material.
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The **"SENSATIONAL."** A NEW 8" **SPEED CONTROLLED** Lapping Machine. Cast of the Finest Aluminum Alloy and Precision Machined with extra long bronze bearings. Sturdy ¾" Dia. shaft and grease pressure lubrication assures a **DEPENDABLE** and **STURDY** Machine that is **TOPS** in **QUALITY** and Value.
No amount of money will buy a **FINER** unit. Other **BIG** Values included are, a Precision Machined 8" Dia. Master Lap, fully adjustable coolant cup with brass metering valve and rubber hose. an assortment of Wet or Dry cloth sanding disc in 3 grit sizes, a 5" Dia. pulley and "V" belt, a supply of molded dopping wax sticks and wooden dopping sticks.
The **"SENSATIONAL"** Lapping Machine Defies all Competition at the **UNBELIEVABLE LOW PRICE, ONLY $37.50** post paid.

• COMPLETE LAPIDARY UNITS •

Simplified Lapping Machines at only $24.95, "AUT-O-DEX" Faceting Machine, ONLY $14.95, A new and unique SPEED CONTROL, Sphere Lapping tubes, Hardness testing Wheel, "V" Transfer Blocks, Faceting Dops, Fully adjustable Pulley, Roughing Attachment, Supplies, etc.

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DEALERS & DISTRIBUTORS WRITE
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We do our own faceting and carry a complete stock of precious and semi-precious gems. Approval selections sent to accredited dealers or individuals. Ask for free list.

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Expert faceting insures the utmost in brilliance and color from your facet materials. If materials sent are not of faceting quality we will return them post paid. Cutting list free.

DEALERS NOTE—Gem replacement and jewelry repair service. Matching of broken or lost gems to fit your mountings. Any type. Old mountings made like new, all at a surprisingly low cost. Ask for estimate. Special attention given.

DEALERS NOTE—Recutting or repolishing of broken or worn gems with small loss of material weight. Many chipped gems can be remounted in the original mounting after recutting. Send mounting also that we may cut to fit. Special attention given.

GENUINE INDIAN JEWELRY

Each piece an individual hand made creation. Set with Heavenly Blue Turquoise, the December Birthstone. Prices on requst.

GARNETS — January Birthstone

Beautiful blood red or deep wine color. Mounted or unmounted, in any type of jewelry. Any cut desired.

AUSTRALIAN AND MEXICAN OPAL

Australian Fire Opal from $1.00 per Carat and up. Cabochons, sizes from 2 cts to 40 cts. Mexican Honey and Cherry Opal. Cabochons from $1.50 to $5.00 each. Prices, sizes on request.

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Gem Cutters and Jewelry Manufacturers

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◆ Answers to Inquiries

NOTE—This department is one of the most important sections of the LAPIDARY JOURNAL. If you have problems write us about them. We will get the answer somewhere. And if you don't agree with an answer, give us your idea. A lively and useful Q and A department should become an encyclopedia of gem information through the years. Will you help?

Inquiry of Louis B. Mousley, San Bernardino, Calif.

I will appreciate it if you can tell me from whom I might get details of the fine cases I have seen at the various shows. I would also like to know how to get water to my wheels without plumbing and a lot of splash.

Answer:

Cases have been made by the Los Angeles Lapidary Society at a cost of $10.60 each by having the members do the work. These cases were made of mahogany but were not lighted and the top was screwed down. Information about the plans may be had from John E. Gaston, 3776 Dover Place, Los Angeles 26. The San Jose Society made lighted cases with two fluorescent lamps. If you have one lamp at the top it distorts the gems at the bottom of the case. These cases cost about $16.00 and information may be obtained from Russell S. Grube, P.O. Box 124, San Jose. The cases made by the Glendale Society in our opinion, are the best. Information may be obtained from Dan White, 4621 Avenue 41, Los Angeles 41.

As for the water to your wheel we suggest that you get a five gallon spring water bottle and siphon it off from overhead by gravity flow by using hospital rubber tubing with an adjustable clamp. Any doctor or nurse will get rejected tubing for you from your local hospital. They throw it on the trash heap anyway. We're going to run an article on this soon with diagrams.

Merry Christmas
and a
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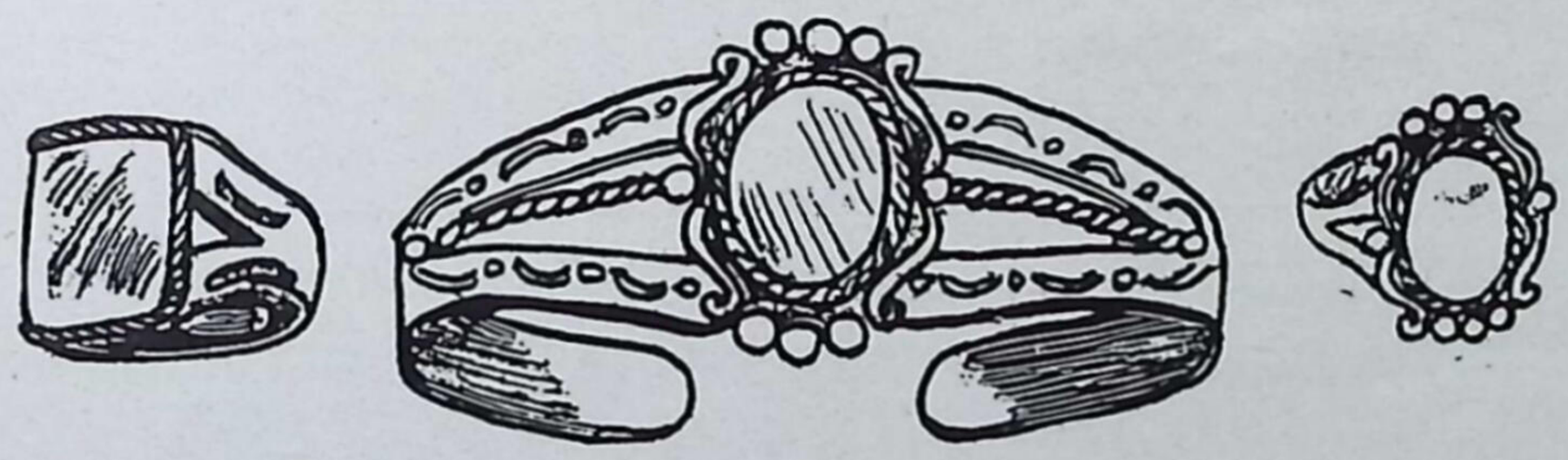
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Center: Two-prong Bracelet $3.50 and up.
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◆ Shop Helps

If you have found a useful short-cut in your shop send it in. We will give you credit. The most skilled craftsmen, as well as beginners, find this department useful.

A solution of baking soda in an aluminum pan is often described in newspapers and magazines as an effective means to remove tarnish from silverware. We warn you, however, that to retain the high luster and beauty of silver, it is still necessary to polish with a good silver polish after using this method of cleaning. Detergents, cleaning agents used in place of soap, are often used in the same way to remove stains and tarnish. In case of their use, polish is also necessary following the cleaning.

Despite the value of using baking soda or detergents to clean silverware, patterns with an oxidized or gray finish should be excepted for these finishes may be removed in the cleaning.

* * *

Form your own mirror right on the back of your stone. Protect with a closed back mounting. Prop the stone bottom up in a little glass ash tray or similar vessel. Silver it by a long winded but an easy to do method contained in *Laboratory Recipes, Handbook of Chemistry and Physics.* Helen L. Mac Leod, Washington, D.C.

* * *

If you long to cover your old home-made saw with a nice plastic hood, like you see on some of the new saws, but you cannot get the material, we offer the following idea. No matter where you are located you should be near an X-ray. Go to your nearest hospital or your doctor, if he has an X-ray, and ask them to save you their under-exposed films (the over-exposed ones are too dark). The best technicians will spoil films occasionally and they are tossed away. After you collect a few large negatives (that are gray instead of deep black) only a lack of ingenuity will prevent your cutting out and putting together some of the trickiest hoods and splash pans ever invented—and you can see right through them.

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Will cut 1 to 5 carats **$1.50 per gram**

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Tourmaline—(Light green, center blue & purple) Sizes to
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Small . . . . . $1.50 per gram

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From 1 to 50 carats each.

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Gem News

C. J. Hutchinson, known as Rocky Dome, and new President of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies, had a narrow escape from being burned to death in his apartment in El Paso on September 14th. He lost his clothes and keepsakes and his lungs were badly damaged by smoke. He is reported to be on the road to recovery.

* * *

The Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies' convention next year will be held at El Paso on June 8th, 9th and 10th.

* * *

There will be a rock and mineral show at Yermo, Calif. on Dec. 3rd and 4th.

* * *

The 1950 meeting and show of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies will be held at Milwaukee, Wis. At a meeting held on October 1st, the initial organization for the convention was effected as follows:

Place—Milwaukee Public Auditorium.

Time—June 28-29-30 (Wed., Thurs. and Fri.)

Chairman—James O. Montague, 1026 E. Pleasant St., Milwaukee.

Facilities—Two large rooms for commercial and non-commercial displays, separated by a f o y e r as a rest area. Several lecture rooms.

Host Society—Wisconsin Geological Soc. of Milwaukee.

* * *

The California Federation of Mineralogical Societies will meet in 1950 on June 24th and 25th at Valley Wells near Trona and adjacent to Death Valley. There are no hotel accomodations so that the convention will be an all-outdoor meeting for real rockhounds with bed rolls and a coffee pot.

* * *

Irv Thomas has published his first i s s u e of *Mineral Exchange Bulletin* which lists the names of many collectors and items they have to swap. It gives a lot of news about minerals too. See ad elsewhere in this issue.

* * *

Gordon Bowser of Santa Barbara is now conducting the lapidary page in *Mineral Notes and News.*

The City College of New York is the first college in America to offer real lapidary courses. They have seven separate courses for moderate fees. A class once a week for fifteen weeks offers introductory lapidary work for $26. Advanced lapidary work for the same period has the same fee. A twelve weeks' course in gem engraving costs $45 and a course in identification of gems and rudiments of diamond cutting each costs $29.00. For explanatory brochure address Harry N. Wright, President, at Convent Avenue and 139th St., New York 31. (Mention the *Journal* if you write please).

Lapidary Serial in Collier's

As we go to press we are informed by Adela Rogers St. John that her new novel will begin serially in Collier's Magazine on December 5th. The new story by this noted author will be titled *CINDERELLA RIDES AGAIN*. It is an absorbing tale and we sat in on it briefly while Miss St. John plotted it. You see the central character is an old lapidary and his family can get him to do nothing at all the first day the *LAPIDARY JOURNAL* arrives. The *Journal* is his bible; it comes first in his life.

This is the first time, to our knowledge, that an amateur lapidary particularly has been made a central character in a tale. Miss St. John got the idea from her brother, who is a lapidary in Santa Ana, Calif. When she covered the Hauptman trial in New Jersey as a reporter (kidnapper of the Lindbergh child) she bought an old home near New Brunswick, a city founded by our own family. The old stone house needed repair and a neighborhood stone mason was called in to consult on the job. He hesitated to guarantee his work however, when asked if he would do so. That is to say he declined to guarantee it "beyond a hundred years." This so impressed Miss St. John that she studied his character which registered indelibly in her mind. And so he has been woven into CINDERELLA RIDES AGAIN—as an amateur lapidary. We hope our readers will read the tale for they will likely see it in the movies a year or so from now. We hope so—for probably not one in a hundred movie goers ever heard the word "lapidary" before. The story starts December 5th. Better reserve your copy

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1 to 2 lb. pcs. . . . $5.00 Lb.
The Finest

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QUARTZ GREEN JADE,
1 lb. pcs. . . . . $1.65 Lb.
Nice Specimen for Cabinets

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Also:
Carnelian Agate, sm. pcs. $3.00 Lb.
Beautiful, from Hot Springs, N.M.
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155-Carat Yellow Diamond Found

De Beers Consolidated Mines, Limited had a more spectacular reopening of their Dutoitspan Diamond Mine in July than was expected for in less than 10 days a yellow diamond weighing 155 carats was discovered.

The opening of the Dutoitspan Mine, noted for its production of yellow (in the trade "Cape") diamonds, was simultaneous with the closing of Bultfontein Mine. The stock of yellow diamonds, which had been accumulated when the Dutoitspan Mine was last worked, has now been exhausted, and according to De Beers, there is a great need for this quality of diamonds.

False Diamond Warning Given

(New York News)

New York, Oct. 31—Pawnbrokers and brides-to-be were warned today to beware of a cheap, new synthetic stone—which outdazzles any diamond in fire and color—that is just beginning to appear on the market.

The new sparkler is rutile, a synthesis of titanium dioxide. Although it has a higher refractive index than diamonds, it retails for around $20 a carat instead of $500 and up for a first-rate diamond.

Richard Liddicoat, assistant director of the Gemological Institute of America, said the institute is teaching its students how to detect the difference between diamonds and rutiles.

(Ed. Note: That shouldn't be *too* difficult. As a matter of policy the *Journal* publishes no advertising linking rutile with the diamond. Rutile is a marvellous gem in its own right.)

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Fine jewelry quality $1.15 lb.
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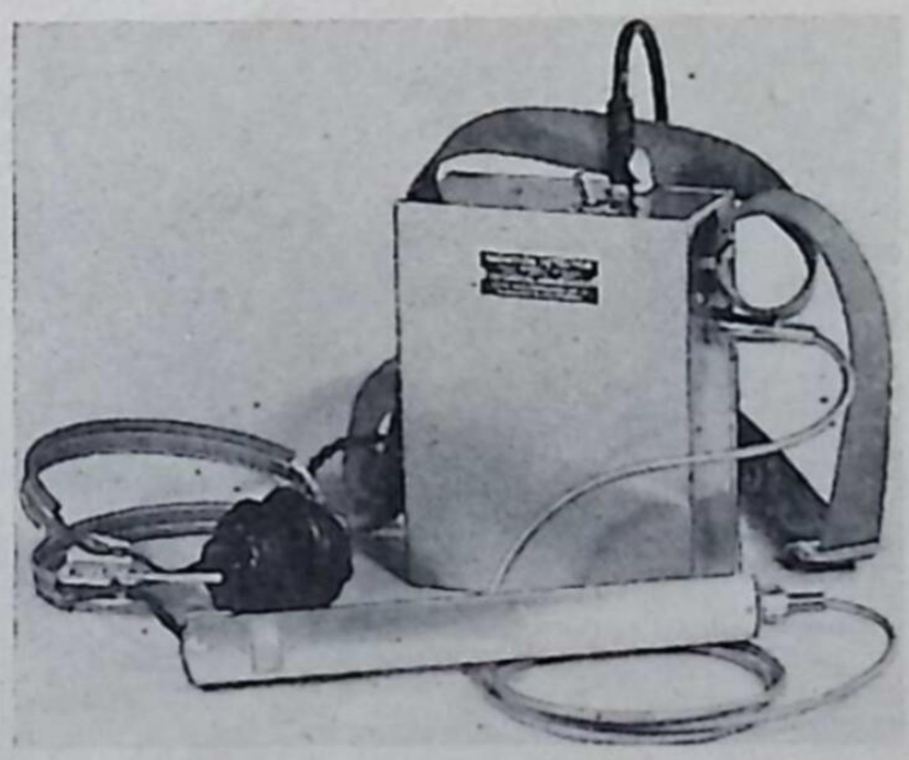
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Gems From The Mail Bag

I think you are doing a splendid work in getting out that superlatively excellent magazine, the *Lapidary Journal*. I have read every issue and don't intend to miss a single one. Major General Julian S. Hatcher, Falls Church, Va.

* * * * *

I will do all I can to boost the *Journal*—it's more wonderful every issue. The response to my ads in the *Journal* is just short of terrific. Dr. Ralph E. Mueller, Kansas City, Mo.

* * * * *

I find your *Journal* quite fascinating and a reliable source of suppliers. C. S. Williams, Medford Lakes, N. J.

* * * * *

I have enjoyed your magazine tremendously because down here in Mississippi I am so far away from any other rockhounds and consequently have no opportunity to see just how the other man does the job unless I avail myself of. the opportunity of going to the mineral shows and in studying all the available textbooks on gem cutting and jewelry work. I have been particularly impressed with the high quality and informative make-up of your magazine and look forward with a great deal of pleasure to its appearance every two months. R. W. Thompson, Jr., Gulfport, Miss.

* * * * *

Though we handle and see many different materials we look forward to reading about the many articles on gem materials and how to cut them, about new finds and the many interesting things the cutters and collectors are doing. Mrs. B. F. Nonneman of *Nonneman's*, Salinas, Calif.

The *Journal* is the finest magazine for all people interested in rocks. My issues have been loaned again and again. Hallie K. Jones. Fallon, Nev.

* * * * *

I enjoyed meeting you and Mrs. Quick at the Los Angeles Lapidary show and picnic. The hospitality which you people displayed was something beyond anything I have ever seen before. My wife, my daughter and I had a most enjoyable time (See pictures on Pages 342-343). From the comments I heard it was obvious that the *Lapidary Journal* is filling a deep seated need among those interested in the art. I was shown the magazine and after looking it over could well understand the favorable comments that I had previously heard. You are both doing an excellent job. Goodwin Knight, Lieutenant Governor of California.

* * * * *

This is just to tell you that I still approve highly of your magazine. From the very first number it has improved steadily. It has given me a new interest in rocks and in the West, until a trip there some day is becoming a necessity. I enjoy especially Robert Tesmer's poetic ideas and the splendid "how-to-do" articles. I have written to a number of advertisers and authors of articles and have enjoyed the contacts thoroughly, as well as the beautiful rocks purchased. Goldie Montaith was right when she said "Rockhounds are human." They may set their stones in silver but their hearts are pure gold. Thank you a lot for everything. I still read the *Journal* in bed. Edith Keeler, Marion, Ohio.

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LAPIDARY JOURNAL

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◆ News of the Societies

LOS ANGELES LAPIDARY SOC. heard member Herbert Monolux in a lecture on correct procedure in cabochon cutting at its November meeting. Pictures of their recent highly successful and history making show will be found on page 343.

* * *

NEBRASKA MINERAL & GEM CLUB reports in their bulletin (THE REAR TRUNK) that the rockhounds are so thick in Los Angeles they run in packs on the city streets.

* * *

ORANGE BELT MINERALOGICAL SOC. (San Bernardino, Calif.) heard O. C. Smith, author of IDENTIFICATION AND QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS OF MINERALS in a lecture on "Rare Earths" at their October meeting.

* * *

EL PASO MINERAL & GEM SOC. held their September field trip to the Van Horn agate deposits.

* * *

COLORADO MINERAL SOC. (Denver) has placed a bronze plaque on Mt. Antero designating the section as a great mineral collecting area. That is indeed a laudable program! We wonder if any society will be unselfish enough to do the same thing in Horse Canyon, now that the hundreds of society field trips have about depleted the area.

* * *

CHICAGO ROCKS & MINERAL SOC. heard L. C. Aldrich give a talk on old time silversmithing methods at their October meeting.

* * *

WISCONSIN GEOLOGICAL SOC. (Milwaukee) heard Alphonse Heun speak on faceting at the October meeting. Their publication (The Trilobite) recently carried a fine article on sphere cutting by Max Jaehnert.

* * *

WASATCH GEM SOC. (Utah) held a field trip on October 30th to Dr. Ingelby's variscite claims near Grantsville.

* * *

GLENDALE LAPIDARY & GEM SOC. (Calif.) heard George Burnham (of BURMINCO) give an account of his recent 8000 mile Mexican-Southwest rock trip at the October meeting. A visit to the Los Angeles Lapidary Society's big show was their official field trip for September.

* * *

TACOMA AGATE CLUB (Wash.) held their annual birthday dinner on November 3rd with an illustrated lecture by Dr. Wm. Strump of Pacific Lutheran College.

* * *

GEM & MINERAL SOC. OF SAN MATEO COUNTY (Calif.) closed its charter with 60 paid up members. Morton Bachrach is President and the society was organized May 24th. Stan Fryer, importer of Chinese carvings and jade, gave a talk on jade at the last meeting.

KERN COUNTY MINERAL SOC. (Calif.) recently made a field trip to Shark Tooth Mountain for shark's teeth. The society had a fine mineral and gem exhibit at the Kern County Fair.

* * *

OKLAHOMA MINERAL & GEM SOC. (Oklahoma City) heard Mrs. J. R. Dole, Librarian at the Oklahoma State Capitol, in a talk on "Gems Through Literature" at their September meeting.

* * *

SAN JOSE LAPIDARY SOC. (Calif.) heard Francis J. Sperisen (a steady advertiser in these pages) give a talk at their October meeting on "The Lapidary Art and Artists of Ancient Times."

* * *

POMONA VALLEY MINERAL CLUB (Calif.) held a field trip to the Cady Mountains on October 16th. They raised nearly $50 at a rock auction at their last meeting.

* * *

SAN ANTONIO ROCK & LAPIDARY SOC. (Texas) celebrated their first anniversary on October 10th and elected Herbert Ohm as President.

* * *

TEXAS MINERAL SOC. (Dallas) viewed a colored film on making glass at their October meeting. Few people realize that glass is made from minerals.

* * *

DONA ANA COUNTY ROCKHOUND CLUB (Las Cruces, N.M.) had the largest representation at the recent Albuquerque meeting and carried off 8 ribbons, the most of any group.

* * *

SAN FERNANDO MINERAL & GEM SOC. heard Warren Jones tell of his 15,000 mile trip by truck through South America collecting gems at a recent meeting.

* * *

SEQUOIA MINERAL SOC. (Fresno, Calif.) heard L. J. Bergsten of Oakland, well known jade hunter, tell of his experiences at the November meeting. The October meeting heard the Gordons of Long Beach (Lowell and Florence) in their fine combination program on modern lapidary equipment and the story of diamonds. Governor Warren of Calif. spent 20 minutes at their exhibit at the Fair, asking many questions about agates. A reporter stated that this was about twice the time he spent at any other exhibit.

* * *

SACRAMENTO MINERAL SOC. (Calif.) has received recognition from the American Red Cross for their assistance in establishing a lapidary class for the handicapped in the Red Cross Arts and Skills program. 3000 people attended their fourth annual show on October 22nd and 23rd. There were 40 exhibitors. The society has voted in favor of the name change of the California Federation.

(Continued on Page 390)

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(Continued from Page 388)

CLEVELAND LAPIDARY SOC. held the best program of the year in November. They had lapidary equipment on the stage and had several members who had never cut a stone before come up and cut a cabochon. Following this some of the experts cut and polished stones completely to compare with the ones cut by the novices. That's certainly a better program than pictures of someone's vacation at Lake Boredom.

* * *

SAN JACINTO-HEMET ROCKHOUNDS (Calif.) got a blue ribbon for their mineral and gem exhibit at the Farmers' Fair and Festival held in their valley.

* * *

NOTS ROCKHOUNDS (China Lake, Calif.) attended the show of the Los Angeles Lapidary Soc. as an official field trip following an agate hunt at Acton Canyon.

* * *

GEM CUTTERS GUILD (Los Angeles) is building a library of colored slides of faceted stones and other lapidary work.

* * *

DELVERS GEM & MINERAL SOC. (Downey, Calif.) had a fine case of material for a one-year-old society at the Los Angeles Lapidary Society's show.

* * *

IDAHO GEM CLUB (Boise) had an opal night on September 13th with four speakers on different phases of opals.

◆ *New Societies*

THATCHER, Arizona, is the location of a new society organized in that valley. Interested persons should communicate with Joe Gable at Thatcher.

* * *

CHICAGO LAPIDARY CLUB elected Jack Bess as its first President on October 20th. Meetings will be held at Grand Crossing Park Field House on the second Thursday. Interested persons should telephone South Shore 8-2506.

* * *

DETROIT LAPIDARY SOC. may be the name of a new society organized by the Editor on October 19th at Cranbrook Institute in Bloomfield Hills, Mich. Election of officers will probably take place on December 14th. Interested persons should get in touch with Jesse Hatch, 333 Majestic Bldg., Detroit; Woodward 2-4141.

* * *

COMPTON GEM & MINERAL CLUB (Calif.) was recently organized and will be addressed by the Editor on December 13th. Anyone interested in gem cutting or jewelrycraft is welcome to attend. The meeting will be held at 8 p.m. at Compton Civic Center, 123 Rose St.

* * *

PRINEVILLE MINERAL CLUB (Oregon) was recently organized with 30 charter members. Interested persons should communicate with Pres. Dale Hammersley, 1030 E. 3rd St., Prineville.

LAPIDARY & GEM SOC. OF NEW YORK was organized by the editor on October 4th at the American Museum of Natural History. Interested persons should call Mr. Lachovich at Algonquin 4-7178. The society already has more than 60 members.

* * *

ROCK CUTTERS CLUB (Washington, D.C.) was organized on September 23rd and addressed by the Editor on October 10th. Col. R. L. Mitchell was elected President. Interested persons should call Executive 2040, Extension 3614 and talk with Col. Mitchell.

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LELANDE QUICK, Editor and Manager

(Signature of editor, publisher, business manager, or owner)
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30th day of September, 1949.
[Seal] RUTH C. SCHNETZLER.
Notary Public in and for the County of Los Angeles, State of California.
(My commission expires December 5, 1952.)

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LAPIDARY JOURNAL

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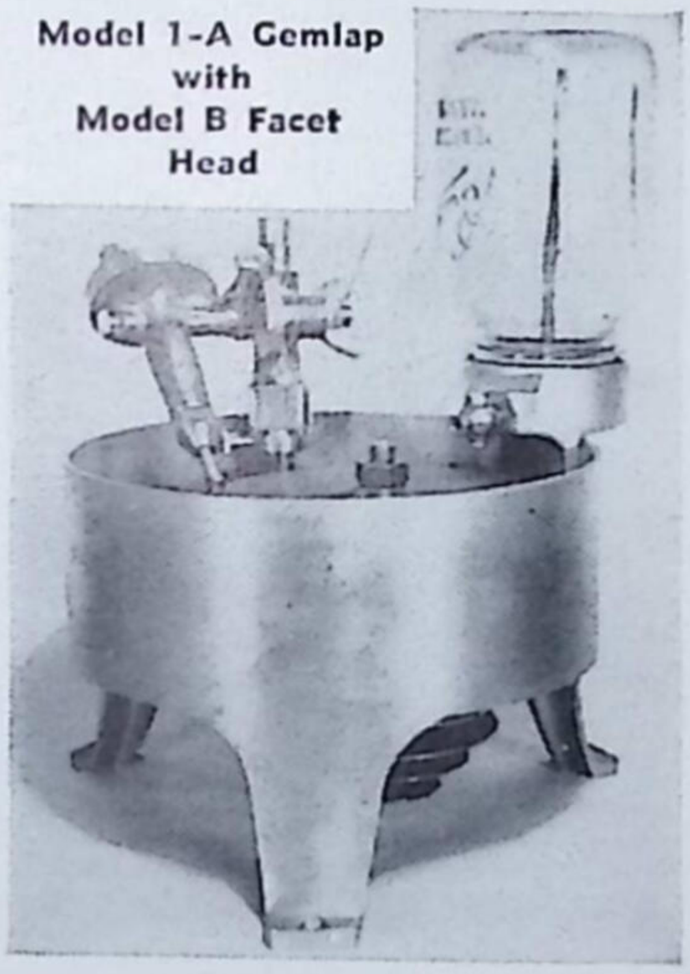
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