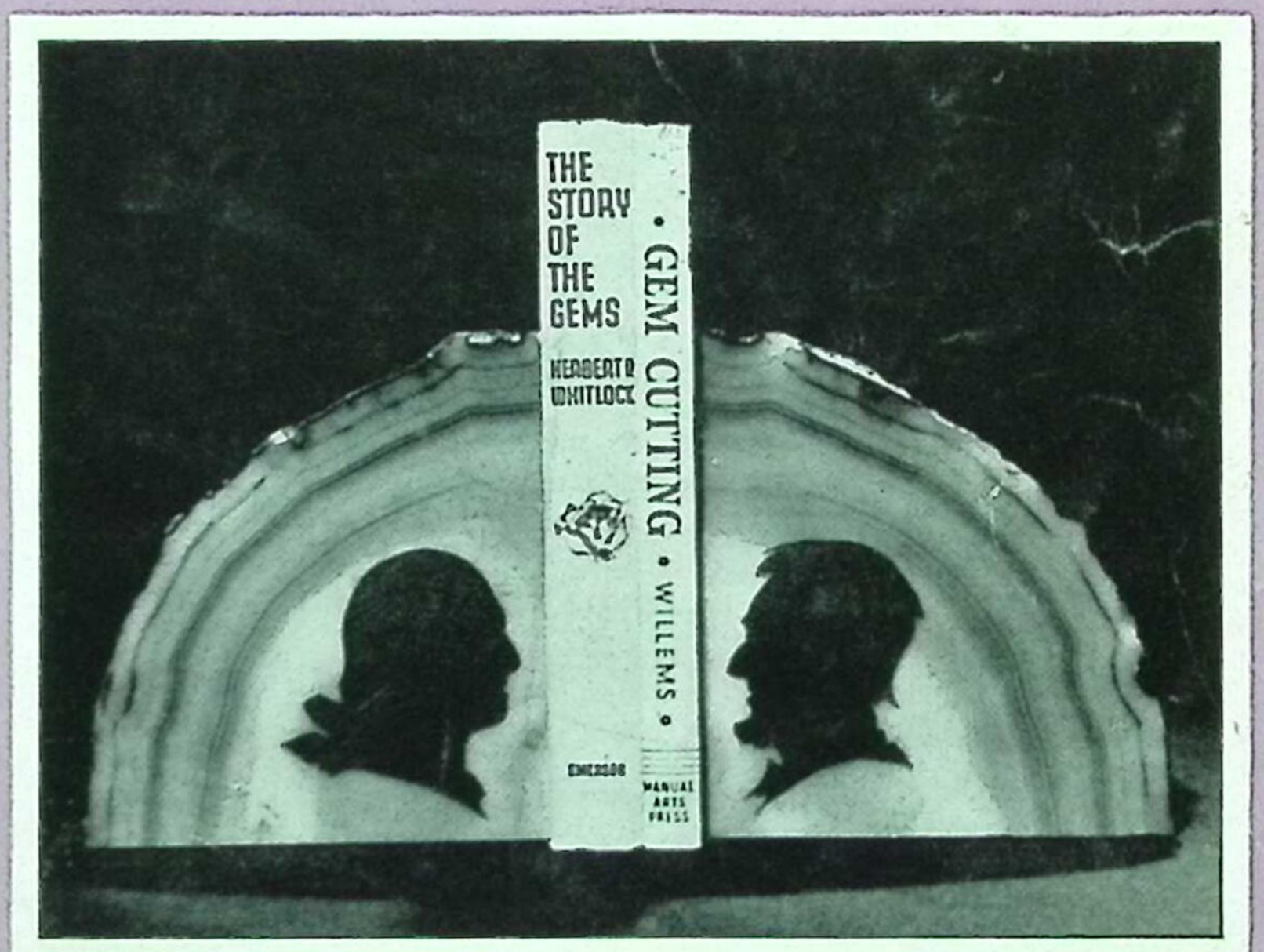
FEBRUARY, 1950

The Lapidary Journal



BOOK ENDS IN BRAZILIAN AGATE

GEORGE WASHINGTON
February 22

ABRAHAM LINCOLN
February 12

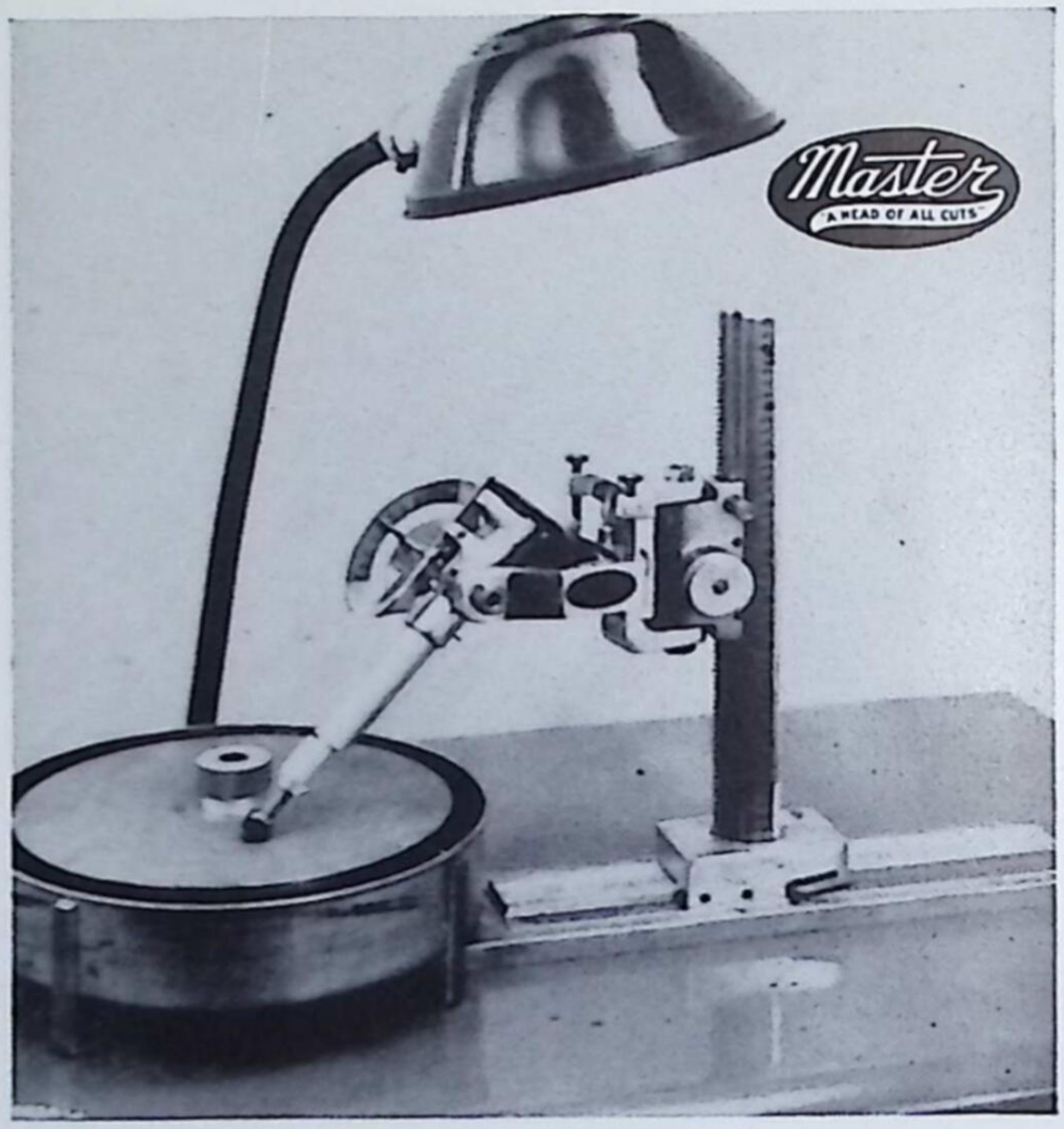
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Hollywood, California

VOLUME 3 50c PER COPY NUMBER 6

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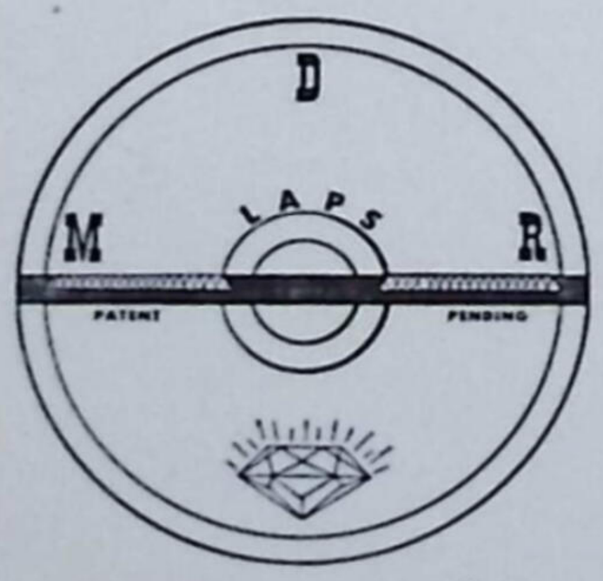
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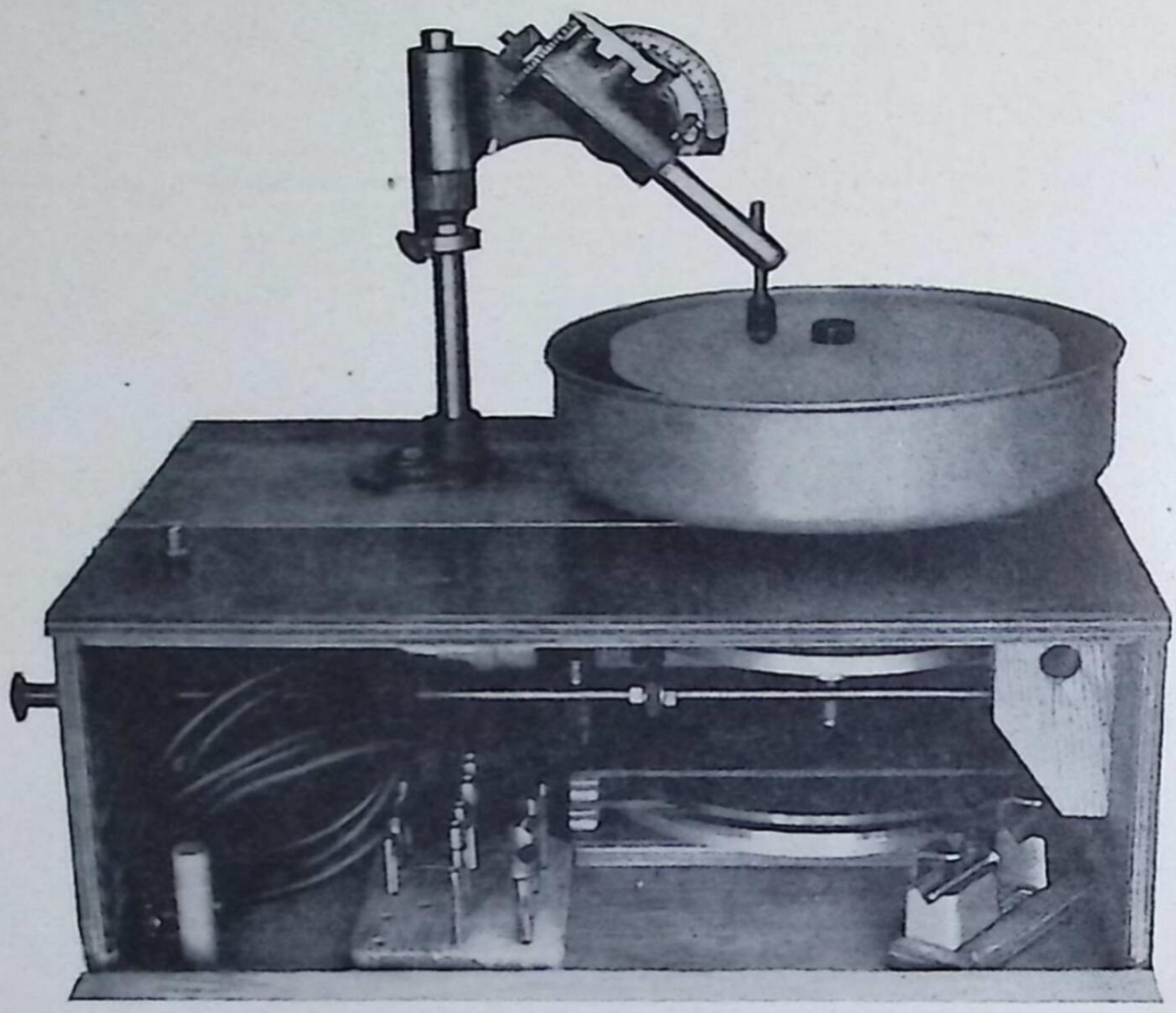
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The Lapidary Journal

A NATIONAL MAGAZINE
for
THE GEM CUTTER, COLLECTOR
AND JEWELRY CRAFTSMAN

SIXTEENTH ISSUE
INDEX NUMBER

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◆ Repeal and Not Reduction

By LELANDE QUICK

"To tax or not to tax, that is the question"—to paraphrase a Shakespeare quotation. The Federal authorities have been raising hob with several dealers recently who have been failing to collect the tax on gem materials sold in the rough. This has frightened all dealers to the point where they lean backwards in an effort to obey the law. What law? The law that established excise taxes in 1941 as a war measure for "punitive purposes against certain types of consumption and production." In plainer words citizens were to be punished for spending $3000 for a diamond ring or a mink coat they didn't need, instead of putting their money into bonds as a loan to their government.

No one dissented at such a law. But through the years the interpretation of the law by the Washington clerks has become farcical. Intended as a tax on luxury items such broad interpretations have been made as collecting a tax on a man's wallet because there is a tax on luggage. (Many would agree that a woman's handbag *is luggage.*) The cosmetic tax on lipstick has not been collected yet on shaving cream—but it probably will be.

This brings us to the 20% tax on gems and gem materials, for their purchase is the foundation of the gem cutting hobby. So many letters about this nuisance tax ask our advice that we offer a hypothetical case as an illustration. A person goes on a field trip and brings home a big load of geodes from the Chuckawallas. They look pretty good when he saws into them. He shows some to a dealer who wants to swap and the amateur uses this chance to make his trip pay for itself by swapping fifty of them for a couple of grinding wheels and a book. Two hours later a tourist stops by the shop and buys a half dozen of the rocks for $5.00. If he says he wants them for his mineral cabinet he gets a written receipt from the dealer that they were sold as " specimen material" and he pays no tax. But if he has any idea in his mind that he is going to improve some of them by polishing the good ones on the sawed side to enhance their beauty he has to pay the dealer 20% tax. For then he is making an ornamental stone and the government holds that to be "semi-precious". Silly isn't it? Silly but unjust for *such a law makes the gem cutting hobby the only hobby subject to taxation.*

The result of this law is that it makes dishonest people of many who are otherwise rigidly honest. It scares some dealers into collecting tax on everything they sell. Why can't the tax be interpreted to agree with the customs duties on the same items? Duty is not required of minerals in the rough but if the mineral is ready for mounting in jewelry it requires duty.

We have seen a lot of letters from the taxing collectors on this matter and here is what we gather from them: a dealer must collect the 20% excise tax on finished stones, ornamental objects (ash trays, bookends etc., when made of minerals), synthetic stones (although they are not *natural minerals*), cabochon blanks, preforms, slabs and *rough material intended for gem cutting purposes.* That means tax must be collected on agate, petrified wood and obsidian. A recent letter to a manufacturer of synthetics advised that the tax must be collected on "everything with a hardness of 6 or over, the pearl excepted." Just let some dealer fail to collect tax on his next sale of chrysocolla which never has a hardness exceeding 4, and see what happens. If one buys some gold in sheets and makes a ring there is no tax but if the same person buys a ring in a store there is 20% tax. If he pays no tax on gold in the raw state why should he pay tax on a hunk of gem material in the rough?

Beardsley Ruml, New York business consultant, told Congress members on November 23rd that the all-wartime "punitive" excise taxes should be repealed outright. He predicted that the net loss to the Treasury by such a move will be "much less that what appears to be the gross loss." Ruml is vice-chairman of the research and policy sub-committee of the Committee for Economic Development, a private organization of business men formed to study economic

conditions. He was author of the pay-as-you go income tax plan. He made his recommendation to a joint Congressional economic sub-committee now looking into the nation's fiscal and monetary policies.

Ruml emphasized that the excise taxes he would repeal are only those applied in wartime for "punitive purposes against certain types of consumption and production". Included are such items as jewelry, furs and electric light bulbs. He eliminated from consideration excises on gasoline, alcohol and tobacco, and those in effect prior to 1941.

Here is a matter for the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies to get its teeth into. Isn't that what it's for —to serve its members' interests? Why should the gem cutting hobby be the only one in America subject to the arbitrary decisions of taxing authorities in a manner never intended by the law? Someone wrote "why don't the jewelers' associations do something about it?" They did. They got the tax repealed on watches under $65. A watch under $65 is regarded as a "necessity" and a more expensive watch is a "luxury." But the same clerk didn't rule on alarm clocks. Any alarm clock over $5 is subject to 20% tax but the authorities generously reduced the tax on the cheaper clocks to only 10%. All alarm clocks are regarded as luxuries while $50 watches are a necessity. The watch boys just talked louder than the clock boys, that's all. Why can't the five million amateur gem cutters set up a howl?

The foregoing was part of our page that appeared in the January issue of *Desert Magazine*. While the article was at press the President of the United States, vacationing in Florida, held a hasty press conference on the matter. This conference was so hasty that the President came to it in his pajamas. The gist of the matter was that Mr. Truman thought all excise taxes except those on beverages and tobacco should be repealed --when Congress meets again. While we applaud his belief we deplore the action for nothing could have been so ill-timed. It had the effect of an atom bomb on the Christmas trade. Anyone who had any plans for giving gifts involving the tax immediately deferred them and switched their buying to other items. The result was that the sale of diamonds was reported in the press to be off more than 50% from the previous season. Stores were stacked high with luggage, jewelry, cosmetics, perfumes etc., on which the tax is collected. Business on these items will boom of course when the tax is repealed but it was a blow to merchants left with high inventories and to the gem and mineral dealers hoping for a little of the over-emphasized commericalism of Christmas. Indeed we strongly hope that the tax is repealed while this item is at press but if it isn't we also strongly hope that they quit talking about it to the unfair harm wrought on the business of many advertisers in these pages. And if the tax is never repealed, or merely reduced, we hope some more that some sensible interpretation of the law is made so that the hobby of mineral collecting and gem cutting is not the only hobby in the country penalized with taxes.

A further side-light on the farcical interpretations of the excise law is revealed in a personal experience. We had thought of taking two diamond rings and having them made into one. Both rings were made of platinum and we consulted a jeweler about a new setting. After deciding on a design and fixing the price he said "and 20% tax". "What tax" we asked? "There is no tax on labor and that is all you are supplying. The diamonds and platinum you are using to make the ring are not a new purchase. You are only re-processing our own materials." "That is true," said the craftsman, "but the end result is that I will deliver a *new* ring to you and I must collect the tax under the law." That ring can wait!

The latest information we have as we go to press is that the excise taxes will not be repealed at all, according to the President's expressed wish in December and despite the fact that he spoke in his message to Congress in January about "correcting inequities in the taxes." It is now believed these taxes will be reduced to 10%. Reduction will not eliminate the inanities of the law. We illustrate a copy of a letter from Washington to a manufacturer interpreting this law. Many dealers have a similar letter but no two letters seem to agree and so the dealers have long been as confused as an old maid at a smoker. We offer portions of a letter from Ward's Natural Science Establishment, the oldest mineral dealer in the business. They are as justifiably con-

fused as anyone else over the ambiguities. We quote—

"One of the first articles that drew my attention when I opened the January issue of the *Desert Magazine* was your discussion of the annoyance which the retailer's excise tax on jewelry and precious or semi-precious stones has given mineral retailers and amateur gem cutters.

"You have undoubtedly read on page 579 of the November-December issue of *Rocks and Minerals*, the remarks on 'Taxability of Mineral Substances' by Charles J. Valaer, Deputy Commissioner of Internal Revenue, U. S. Treasury Dept. We have had correspondence with Mr. Valaer and you may be interested in the following abstracts from his letters.

'It has been the consistent policy of the Bureau to hold that all varieties of stones used for ornamental purposes and having a Moh's scale of hardness of six or more are precious or semi-precious stones within the meaning of the above mentioned section of the Code. However, no tax attaches to the sale of mineral substances such as diamonds, rock crystals, garnets and hematite which are sold for research, educational or industrial purposes where no oranmental purpose is involved such as mineral hardness testing, polishing, cutting and grinding. The sale of such a stone for use as a display specimen in a museum or elsewhere is considered to be the sale at retail of the stone and is therefore subject to the tax irrespective of whether cut or uncut.

'Precious opals and amethysts are semi-precious stones and regardless of whether cut or uncut they are subject to tax unless sold for research, educational or industrial purposes outlined above.

'Regarding the classification of varieties of marble known as Brazilian onyx, Mexican onyx etc., you are advised it has been held that they are not semi-precious stones within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code and the regulations of the Bureau. Therefore, articles made of varieties of such marble are not subject to tax unless, of course, they are articles commonly or commercially known or sold as jewelry in which event sales thereof at retail are properly subject to tax.

'Petrified wood as such is not semi-precious stone. However, wood opal is a semi-precious stone and subject to tax under section 2400 when sold at retail.' etc, etc.

"The above paragraph is obviously ambiguous and lacks clarity of thought. Later we sent to Mr. Valaer samples of zircon, olivine (peridot) topaz and spinel which, according to the wording of the Code, would have been taxable, but to the mineralogist would be simply common rock-forming minerals, often drab and certainly unsuitable for ornamental jewelry. We then had a letter from Mr. Valaer, quote, in part—'The tax does not apply to mineral substances of varieties not commonly and commercially known as precious or semi-precious stones or which are of an inferior quality unsuitable for cutting and polishing into gems, when such substances are in the natural state or especially designed as specimens for display of the material.'

"Ward's has long been plagued by the ambiguities and inanities of section 2400 of the Internal Revenue Code and we feel that the time is now ripe for concerted action to effect the repeal of this law. We would like to see each retailer of mineral specimens or gem materials, and each of the 5 million amateur gem cutters, write a letter at once to his or her congressman plainly stating the objections to section 2400 of the Internal Revenue Code and asking support in its removal from our statutes. The fact that many small businessmen suffer substantially reduced profit margins because of this law should be stressed, as well as the fact that the law as written is most ambiguous."

In an article in *Collier's* magazine on January 7th they ably stated the case for repeal by reviewing the original purposes of the tax. The tax was to REDUCE EMPLOYMENT (so that the affected persons would go into war industries), to PENALIZE CONSUMPTION (to discourage people buying unnecessary items) and to DISCOURAGE BUSINESS (except in the "War effort"). At a time when we don't wish to do any of these things we continue to cause unemployment (with unemployment a problem) to penalize consumption (which we certainly don't wish to do) and to discourage business. *Business sure is discouraged!* In addition to that the law now penalizes the fastest growing hobby in America with a tax. Collier's stated that "no tax that is bad for business and employment was ever any good for revenue".

U. S. TREASURY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON 25

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COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE

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JUN 1 1949

M. D. R. Manufacturing Company
4853 W. Jefferson Boulevard
Los Angeles 16, California

Attention: Thomas L. Daniel

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to your letter of May 6, 1949, requesting a ruling relative to the application of the retailers' excise tax imposed by section 2400 of the Internal Revenue Code to a faceting material, sample of which was submitted.

It is stated that your company manufactures a master faceting head and several other items, all of which are used in lapidary work by amateur gem cutters and others. It is further stated that you plan to sell at retail rough and preformed materials to the owners and operators of faceting devices, to be cut by them, into faceted gem stones, most of which will be retained in private collections. Advice is requested as to whether sales of the material made under the circumstances stated are subject to the tax imposed by section 2400 of the Code.

In the absence of a definite description or information as to the nature of the material submitted, it is not possible to give a definite ruling as to the taxability of the sales thereof. Accordingly, the following represents only the general ruling of the Bureau in this respect.

The tax does not apply to mineral substances of varieties not commonly or commercially known as precious or semi-precious stones, or which are of an inferior quality not suitable for cutting and polishing into gems, when such substances are in the natural state and specifically designed for specimens for display of the minerals. However, if such materials are cut to a size and shape so as to simulate precious or semi-precious stones or gems, sales at retail of such articles are subject to the tax.

A mineral substance which is of the type and quality commonly and commercially known as precious or semi-precious stones from which gems are commonly cut is subject to the tax when sold at retail regardless of whether sold in the natural state or whether cut or polished for display of the mineral.

Very truly yours,

Charles J. Valaer

Charles J. Valaer
Deputy Commissioner

Do you think we have such a small voice, we gem cutters? Listen—aside from the 5 million lapidiaries in America, let every subscriber to the *Journal* send his Congressman a postal (that's all—just a postal) immediately upon reading this article saying "please repeal the excise taxes that penalize me for following a hobby—gem cutting. It is the only hobby in America penalized by a tax." You'll be surprised at the result. The present regime came to power because they were smart enough to listen to the people. They're still listening so MAKE YOURSELF HEARD. We echo Collier's when they said "The Administration policy of keeping the wartime excise taxes on this long is incredible. It's crazy. It's worse than crazy—it's NUTS!"

REPEAL AND NOT REDUCTION.

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So I says to myself, "Why not the Silver Deal again? Maybe some of you missed it." Why I never saw so many real, genuine, complimentary letters—Lydia Pinkham would have turned green with envy had she seen them. In addition, why not the same, identical thing in the finest of all jewelry materials next to karat gold LIFETIME GOLD FILLED (12K 1/20), and priced within the reach of everyone? The boss says, "OK, but only 200 sets." I know that won't be half enough. Just imagine eight exquisite pieces of fine jewelry at only $14.95 including tax and everything! Every piece, when set, will bring eight to ten dollars retail. Well, you figure it out from there.

Remember, we have an old-fashioned motto: "THE CUSTOMER IS ALWAYS RIGHT; please him if it hurts; give him his money back, give him the business — anything, but keep him happy!"

So there it is—right over on the other page—THE FINEST JEWELRY VALUE EVER OFFERED! And that's not kidding, so don't wait; get your orders off today, and send them to me personally. Remember, only 200 sets—and I want that new hat! It's all on the next page, and up to you now.

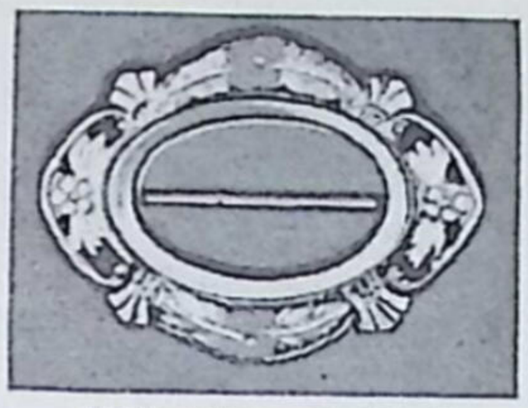
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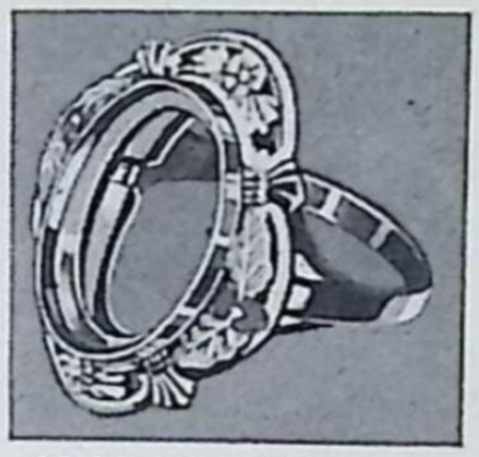
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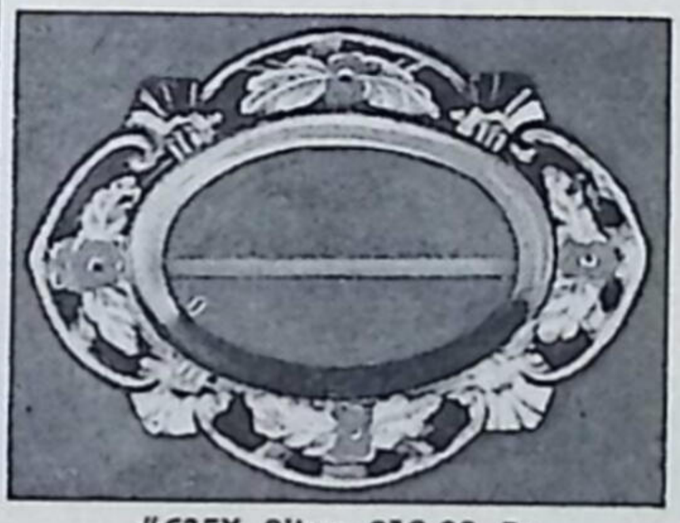
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#819PCX Gold Filled
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#SN18 Silver
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#FN18 Gold Filled
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◆ Ivory Miniatures

By FREDERICK W. HOSBACH
617 Braeburn Lane, Penn Valley, Narberth, Pa.

On retiring from the Cabinet Business ten years ago I had to find an outlet for some still unspent energy. All through my life I often made unusual things just for the love of them. I therefore decided to make some miniatures.

Starting with wood I found it unfit for the more minute parts often called for. Elephant ivory proved to be much superior, both for appearance and delicacy in shape, so that most of my productions are made of it. Gem stones and minerals also came into their own. A 1″ high jet table lamp with an ivory hand decorated shade, lighted by batteries is a feast for the eye. A violin 3″ long made of natural amber should move the eyebrows of a Maestro. A red coral billiard ball less than 1/16″ diameter may be called unusual. A speck of mother-of-pearl mounted in a ring 1/16″ diameter so as to show the only tiny light spot may draw attention. In fact any stone not exceeding a hardness of 5 to 6 can be worked into beautiful shapes on a lathe.

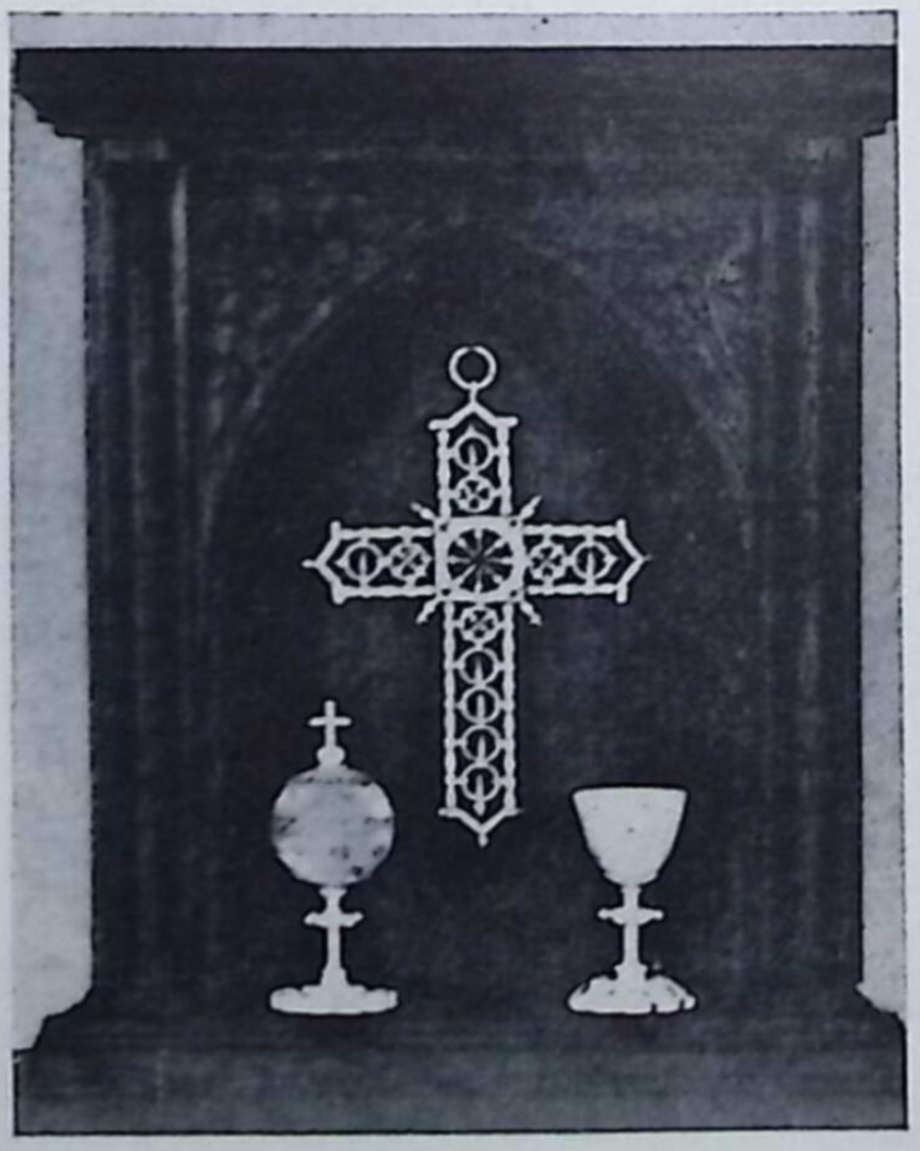
One of my earliest productions is a set of seven implements, formerly used in the home to work and spin flax. These are all working models in miniature and made of ivory. The spinning wheel, for instance, will stand on a dime. This now forms a permanent exhibit (#161885) in the Textile Building of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. A tea set with table and chairs, made of ivory from the long extinct Siberian wooly elephant, may now be seen at the new Lightner Museum, St. Augustine, Fla. Another is under construction made of walrus ivory from Alaska, and it is now in the territorial Museum at Juneau.

Other items of especially difficult construction I have made are: A coffee set made from vegetable wax which, unlike bee's wax, is very brittle is 1/12th scale in size. An ivory chair with hand turned legs and back spindles framed together. The chair is ¼″ high. An ivory cross 2½″ high, made of 118 pieces, framed together and containing very minute swaying parts. A working model spinning wheel of boxwood small enough to stand on a quarter. An all ivory billiard table with balls and cues 1/48th natural size. A checker board of ivory and ebony with a playing surface only 5/16″.

Occasionally I use plastic material but do not favor this to any great extent since that material is of no intrinsic value.

African elephant ivory can now be purchased from several New York importing houses who are fairly well stocked again. Jet and amber disappeared during the war and so far I have been unable to find any new source of supply.

For polishing most items I use a buffing soap made for the plastic trade.



Ivory cross of 118 pieces. Ciborium on left and cup on right. Used in the Catholic sacramental service.

Jet is best polished with powdered rottenstone and water. I make the tools used entirely from old files to meet my special requirements as the material has just about the right hardness.

When I run out of ideas occasionally a stroll through the streets and stores will usually supply new ones. As for idle moments I have few. Now, past 85, I find that work and plenty of it is what I need next to food and one or two annual trips to the far corners of the planet to satisfy an inborn curiosity as well as to get (and give) new ideas. And since, in miniatures, the variety is almost inexhaustible the urge to continue is sure to last.

In the accompanying illustrations you will see some of my work most favorably commented on. These comments naturally create an urge to continue which will no doubt be the best pastime I can devise for growing old gracefully. You who have reached or passed your "three score and ten" and think you are taking a "well earned rest" try for "another guess coming". Get a hobby and feel as I feel—*and tell the world about it.*



The author with a few of his many miniatures.

The wall case (left) with an ivory top gallery; library table; dining table with four chairs—all made of Cuban mahogany. These, with other items, won First Prize at the 1948 New York Hobby Show.

The round drop-top table with four chairs and two stools (lower left front) are 1/24th in size (½ in scale) reproductions of furniture in the Tudor Room of the Philadelphia Art Museum. All of the ornamental features are reproduced on the scale used. The larger chair on the right, by reason of its fine spindle work, is one of the author's most beautiful productions. The museum authorities have prevented their exhibition until they are old enough to be shown as genuine antiques (100 years). Th smallest of the chairs is held in the author's hand.

The small ivory miniature on the middle of the library table is a 1/12th reproduction of a painted Porzelan Meisen antique writing set with an ink well in the center and three pockets on the inner rim for pens

◆ How Old Gold Is Refined—

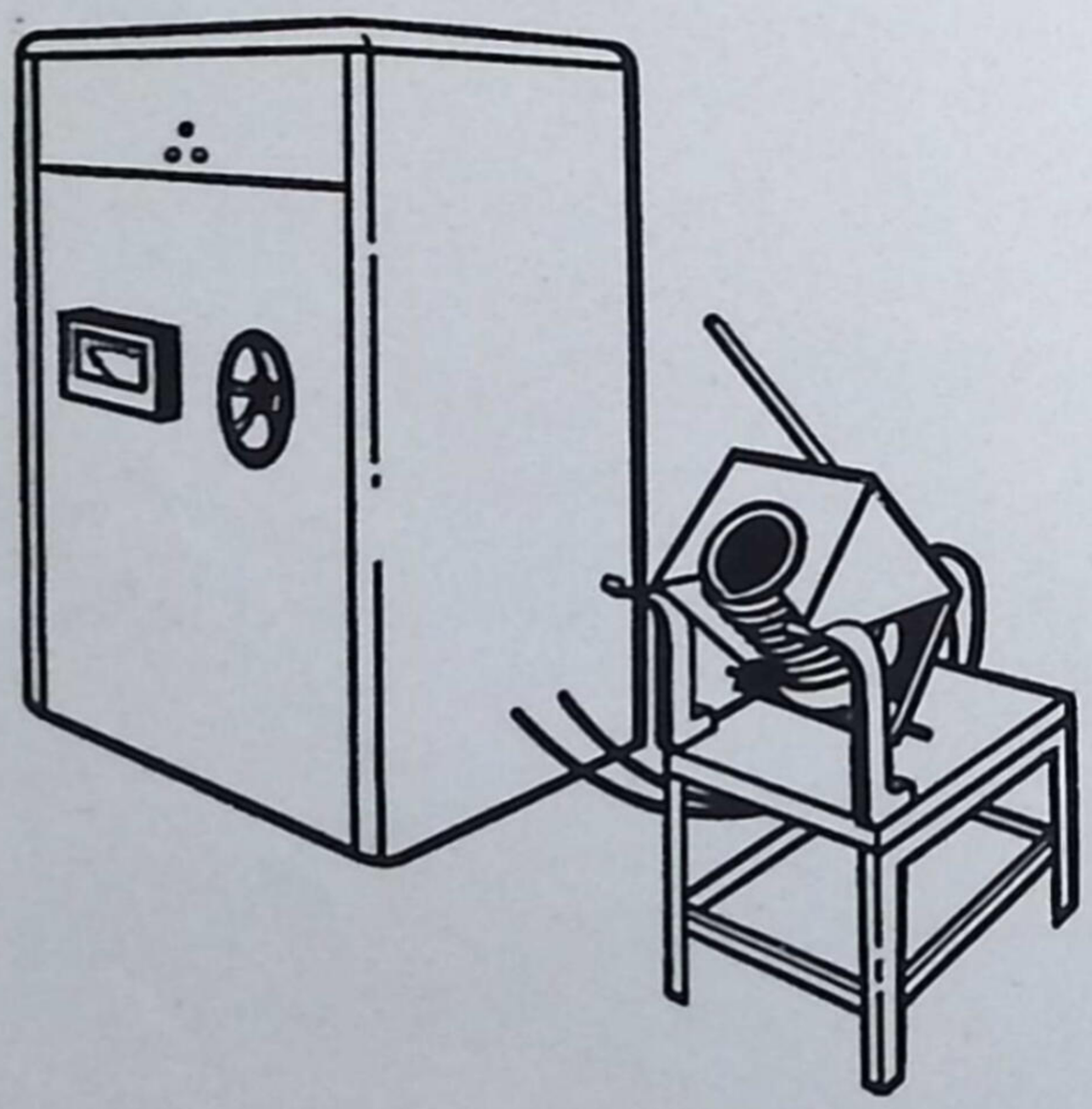
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Gold occurs in nature in metallic form, and for this reason was probably among the first of metals to be attracted to the attention of man. Inscriptions found in the tombs of the ancient Pharaohs describe refining mehods used thousands of years ago.

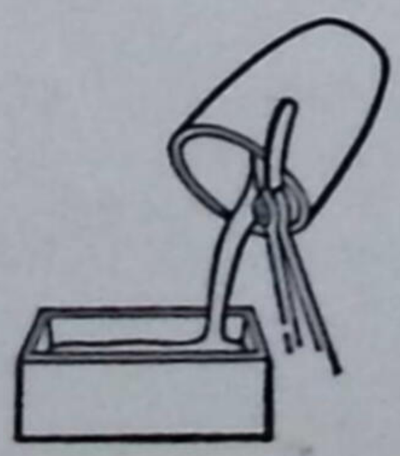
It is only to be expected, then, that the refining of gold in this modern age has reached a high potential of perfection. Perfection includes not only the production of high purity gold, but also the avoidance of any loss of gold in the refining process and likewise the full recovery of any associated metals such as silver, platinum and palladium.

Such perfection requires a certain intangible "know how" gathered through extensive experience together with technical knowledge of chemistry and metallurgy. It requires a rigid practice of meticulous care and close control in every step of the procedure. Needless to say, only the latest and best equipment is used by the skilled refiner to attain the highest degree of perfection and efficiency.

SMELTING



The high-frequency induction furnace readily melts such high fusing metals as platinum, stainless steel, etc. The tilting furnace above shows the crucible inside the induction coil. The converter shown at the left delivers 20,000 Watts at a frequency of 35,000 cycles.



The entire charge of the crucible — metal and slag — is poured into an ingot mould. ←



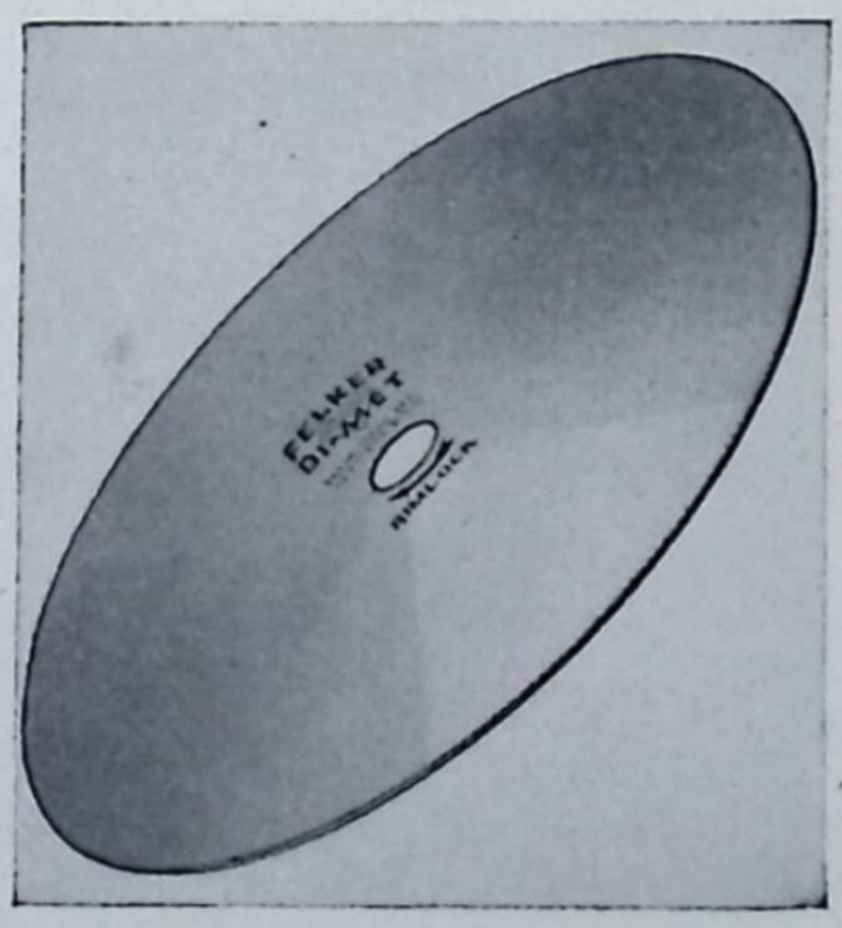
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The metal settles to the bottom, the slag remains on top. →



When a shipment has been entered and weighed, it is given a working sheet with a lot number, and sent to the smelter.

The smelter must first prepare his crucibles by glazing them with borax, so that the metal will pour out clean.

Next, he must prepare the flux best suited for the type of scrap to be smelted. The functions of the flux are to reduce all the metal to molten form in a single mass; to oxidize certain base metals; and to carry off impurities, such as rouge and other base metal oxides. When the metal is in finely divided form, as in polishings, or when extraneous material such as silicon carbide is present, the practise of fluxing becomes complex, requiring the use of various chemicals. In addition to its chemical properties, the flux must be sufficiently fluid to permit all the metal to settle out. When the flux has completed its reaction it is called "slag" and takes on the appearance of colored glass.



Fluxes are complex mixtures of chemicals

Most smelting is done in gas-fired furnaces, but high-fusing materials such as platinum, palladium, or filled scrap containing nickel or stainless steel are smelted in electric furnaces.

When the smelting is complete, the metal is stirred vigorously with a graphite rod, and poured rapidly, slag and all, into a cast iron mold where it is chilled instantly to avoid segregation.

The bullion is stamped with its number and returned to the weighing room. The weight after smelting is recorded, and it is on this weight that settlement is made. Generally, this weight is lower than the original, since impurities have been fluxed out and some base metals removed in smelting.

PREPARATION OF THE SAMPLE



Drillings are taken from the bullion, at both ends, top and bottom.



Samples are weighed and placed in a tray made of lead foil.

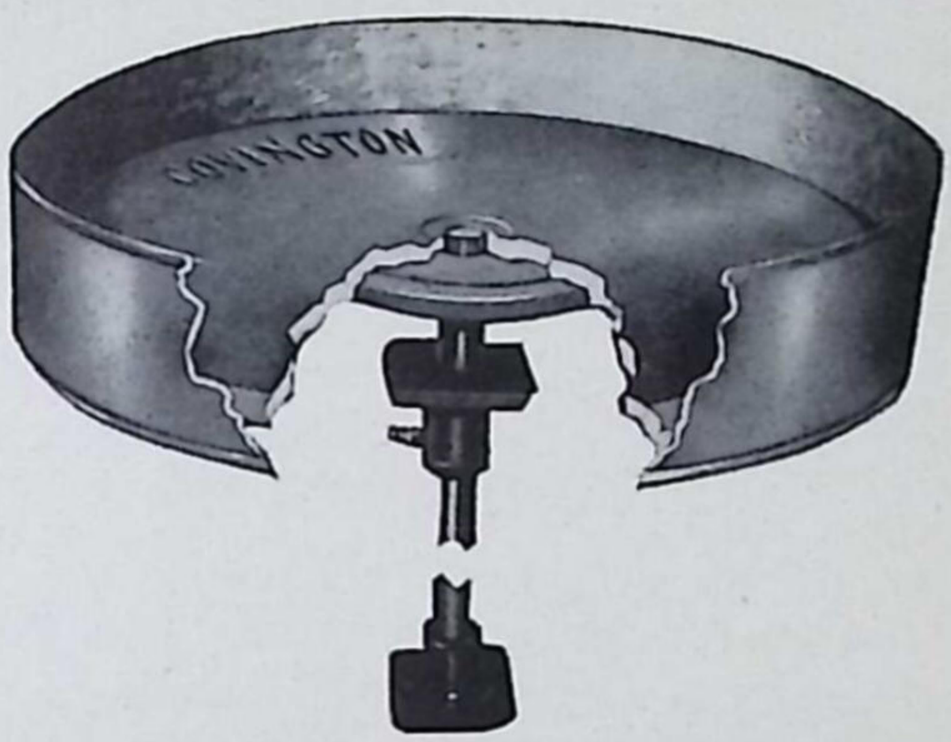


Silver is added for parting—

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24"	79.30	55.90	43.75
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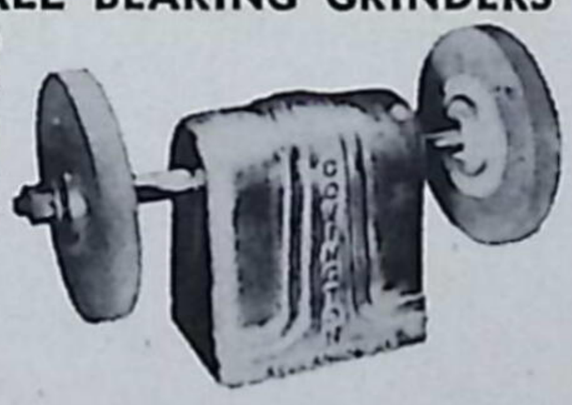
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and the foil is wrapped into a ball.

The bullion is now sampled by drilling through the top near one end and the bottom near the other end. The drillings are placed in an envelope marked with the lot number and approximate karat and sent to the assay laboratory. The bullion is again weighed as a check on the weight after smelting.

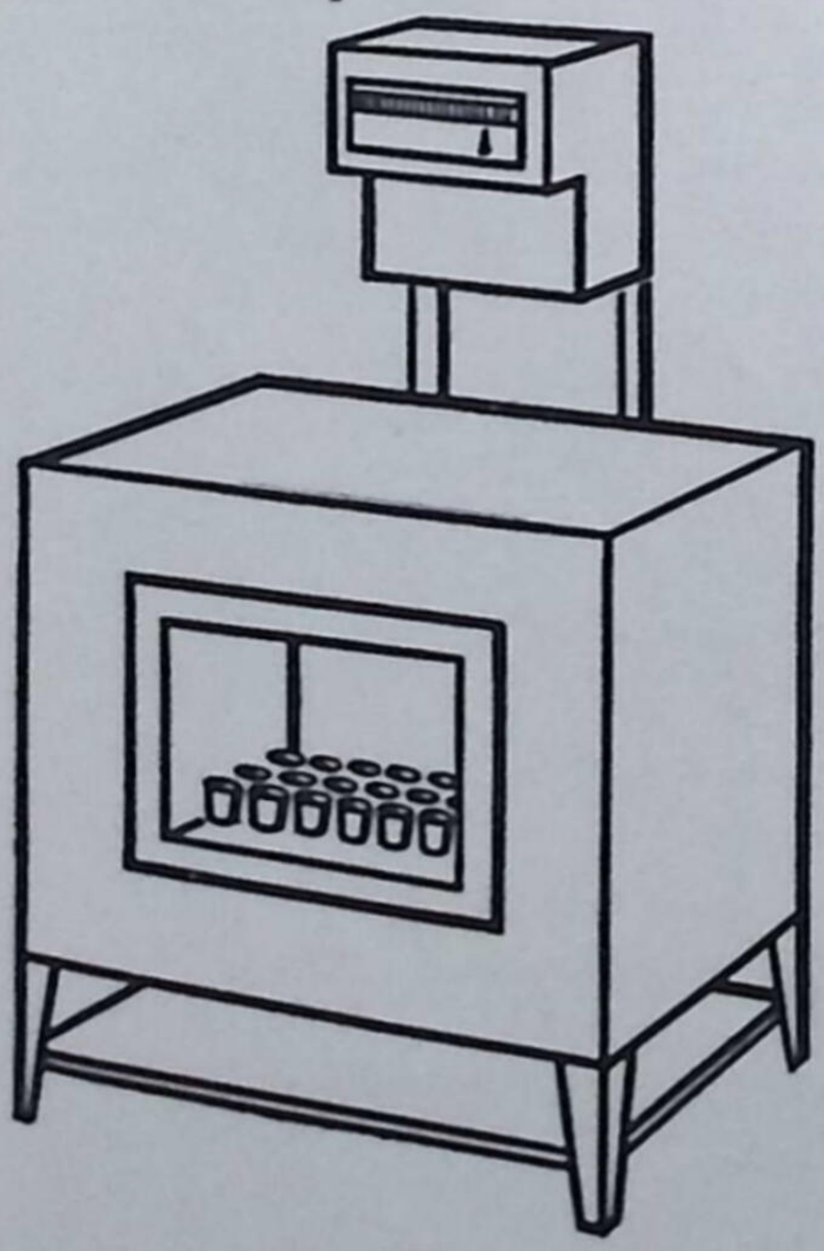
In the assay laboratory, three samples of the drillings are weighed out together with a fourth sample of known composition called a "proof." The samples are placed in trays made of pure lead foil, silver is added for parting, and the lead foil wrapped up into little balls.

The karat of the bullion will determine the size of the samples and the amount of silver to be added, it being desirable to have a ratio of silver to gold of about three to one for the "parting" operation which will be described presently.

The next step is cupellation, in which all the base metals are removed from the sample. Cupellation is based on the principle that base metals oxidize when exposed to air at high temperatures, but precious metals do not. Since the nobility of most old gold is sufficient to prevent such oxidation except superficially, it is necessary to add lead. The molten lead dissolves the sample, forming a homogeneous lead-rich alloy which is readily susceptible to oxidation.

CUPELLATION

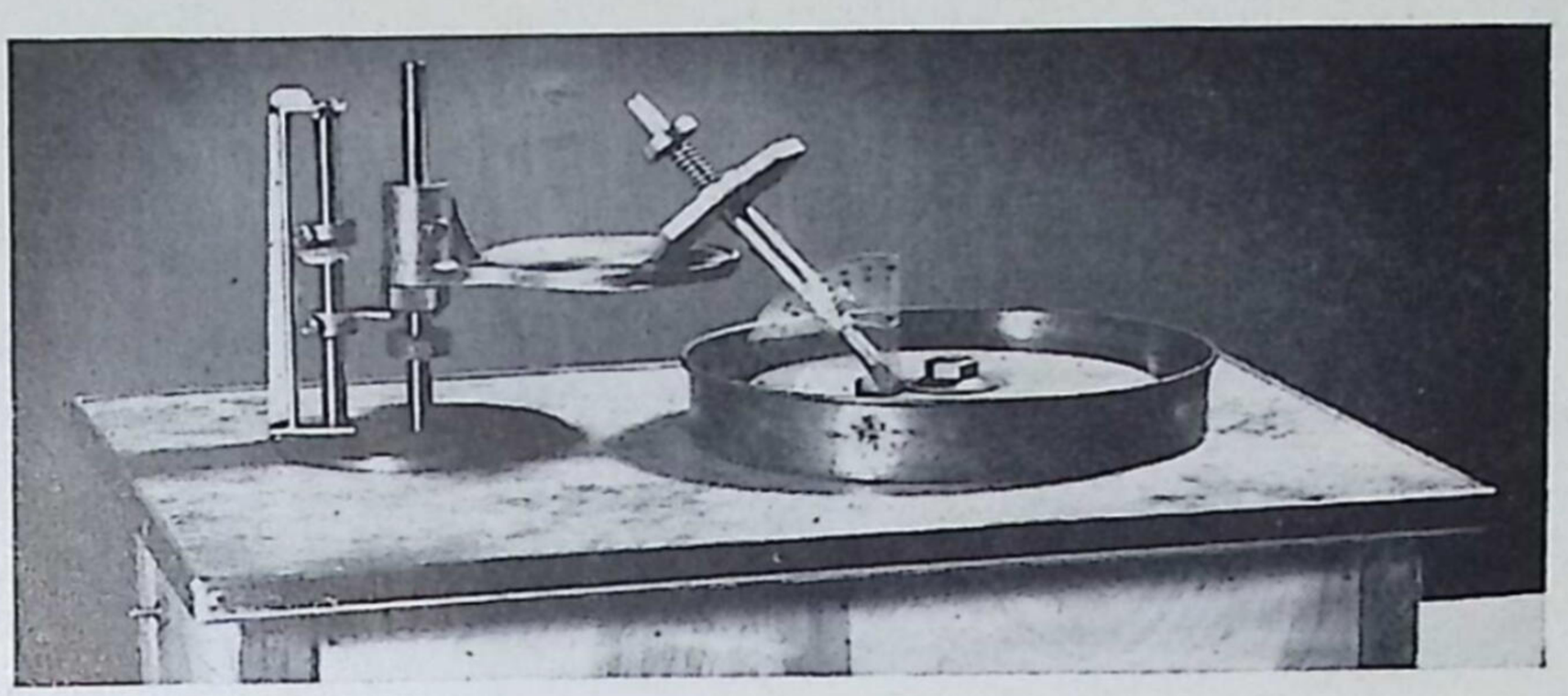
A cupel is a shallow cup made of bone ash, which has the property of absorbing molten metal oxides. Cupels are heated in an electric furnace to a pyrometrically controlled temperature of 1600° F. and the lead balls (containing the samples) are placed in them. A controlled amount of air is allowed to pass over the cupels from an opening at the door and is withdrawn by a suction arrangement at the rear of the furnace.



Cupel Furnace
(Shown without door)

The air passing over the molten charge causes the lead and other base metals to form oxides which are absorbed by the cupel. The lead oxide is called "litharge" and serves as a flux to carry the other oxides away. This whole charge is like a little spinning ball which grows smaller and smaller as the oxides are absorbed and finally stops spinning when the cupellation is complete. Since precious metals do not oxidize under these conditions, there now remains a button containing only silver, gold, and platinum metals.

For the sake of simplicity, it will be assumed at this point that platinum metals are present in only minute quantities, if at all, and that their presence may be disregarded. Actually, if platinum metals were present, a vastly different procedure would be followed.



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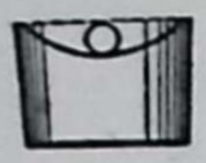
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1. The lead melts and dissolves the sample, forming a ball.



2. Air impinging on the lead-rich alloy causes oxides of the base metals to form.

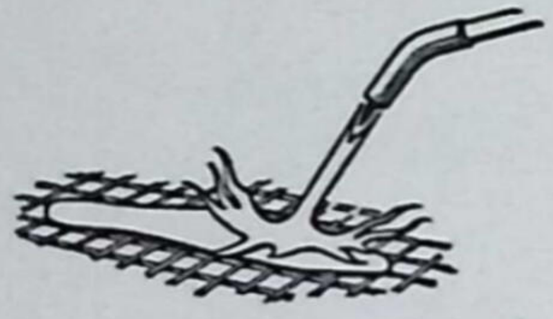


3. The cupel absorbs the oxides, causing the ball to spin.



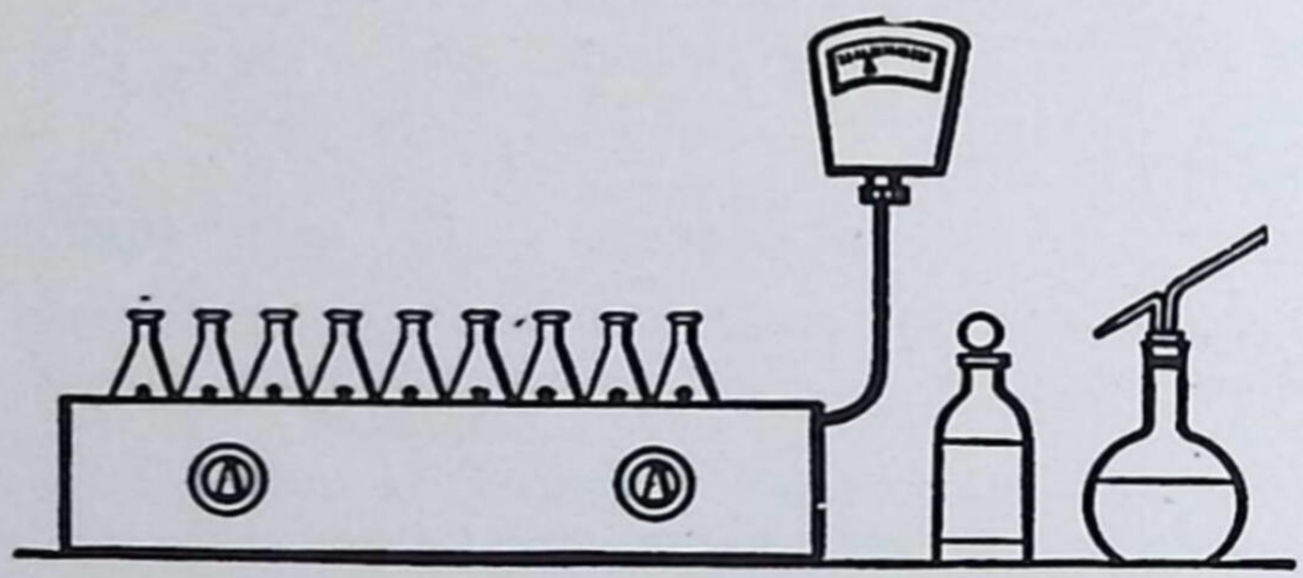
4. When the oxides have been absorbed, a button containing only precious metals remains.

PARTING



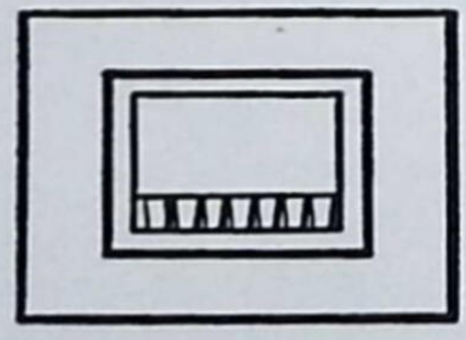


An assay button is rolled into a ribbon which is annealed for easier parting and coiled into a cornet as shown at the right.



Cornets are leached twice in acid and then in water in Erlenmeyer flasks at 200° F.





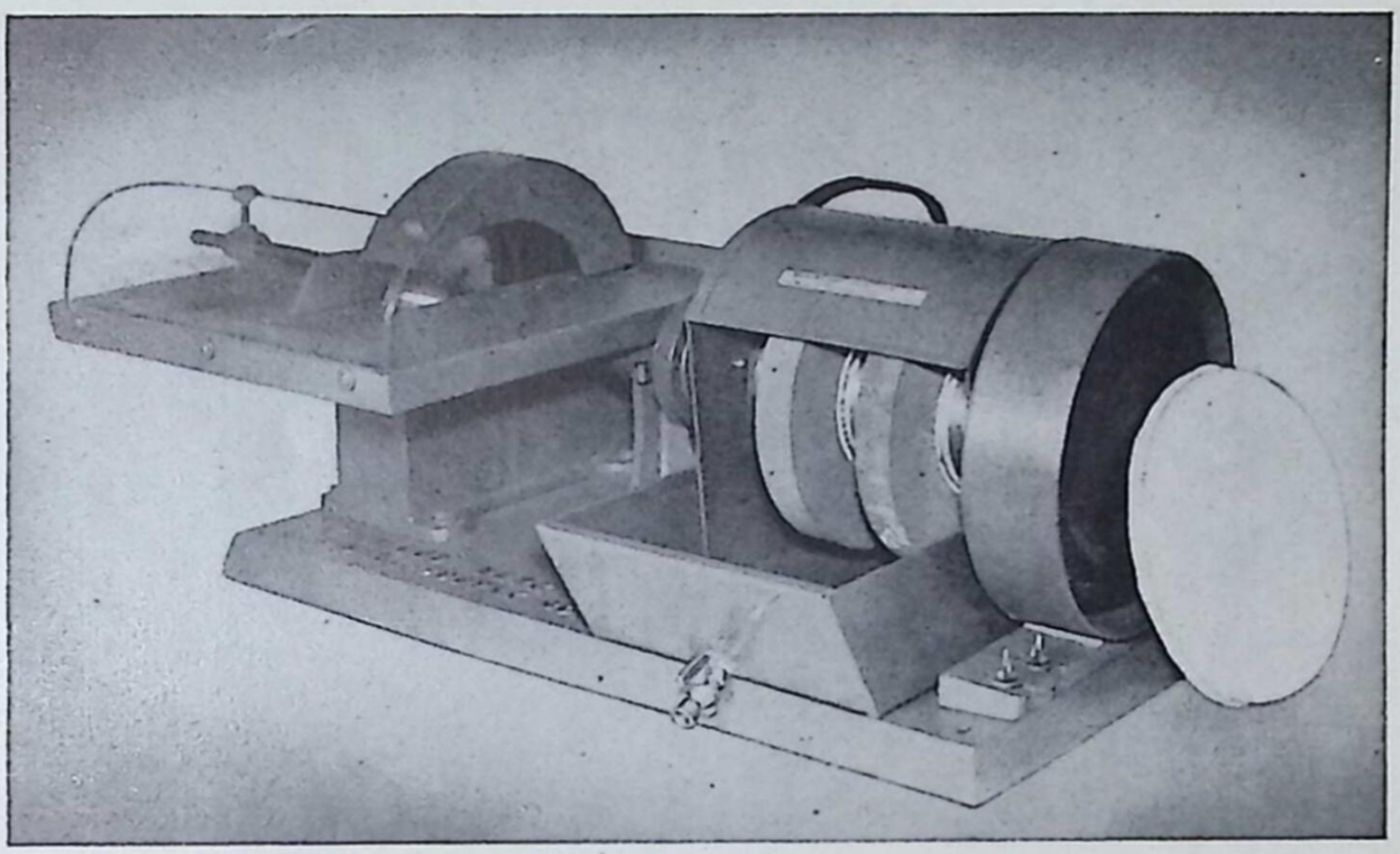
The treated cornet is washed into an annealing cup, and the cup placed in an electric furnace where the cornet is annealed and sintered.

The next step is "parting," or the removal of the silver. The button is rolled out into a ribbon, annealed, and rolled up into a coil, called a "cornet." This is placed in an Erlenmeyer flask and leached with dilute acid at 200° F. which dissolves most of the silver. Leaching is repeated with concentrated acid and finally with distilled water. The parting is now complete and the cornet contains only pure gold. The pure gold cornet is washed into an annealing cup which in turn is placed in an electric furnace and brought to a red heat. This drives out the moisture and sinters the porous cornet into denser form for subsequent handling.

The cornet is now weighed, placed in a vial and held with the original sample in case rechecking is desirable. The weight of the cornet divided by the weight of the sample gives the percentage of gold or fineness of the bullion. Since three samples were taken, the results must agree with each other or the assay is rejected. The fourth sample or "proof" is of known fineness and is used as a further check on the correctness of the assay.

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Base of machine is 13" x 31" long. *Note these dimensions.*
Shaft is 1" ground and polished cold-rolled steel.
Bearings are self-aligning, pillow block ball bearings.
Belt can be changed in a few minutes.
Motor can be mounted under or in back of machine.
Leather covered buff and sanding disc can be changed in seconds by wrench provided with each unit.
Grinding wheels can be changed in minutes without disturbing bearings.
Bronze pet-cock is located in front for draining water from pan.
Sander and buffer are backed with soft rubber.
Trimming saw comes equipped with 8" Diamond blade, Lucite Shield and stone guide.

Made of heavy, cast-dural with steel hood over the grinding wheels, the Model E-3 comes equipped with the following items:

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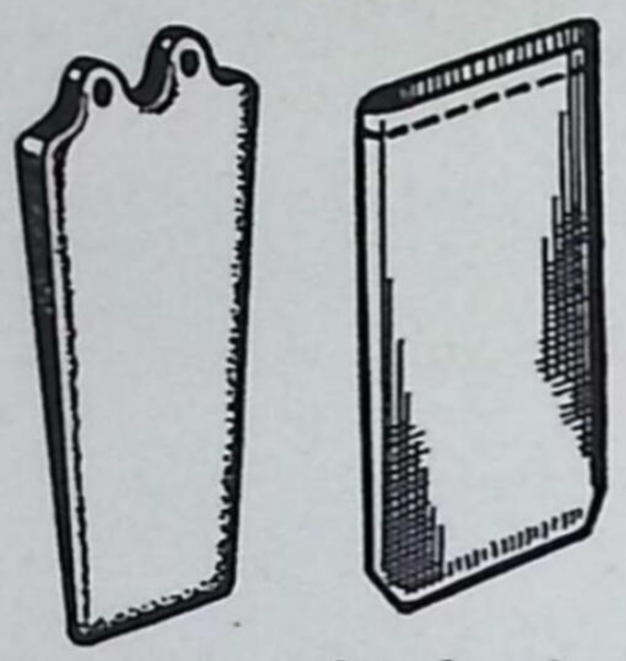
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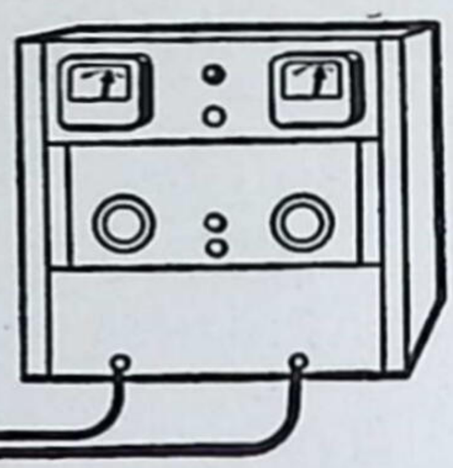
Settlement is made on the basis of the assay, and the bullion is held for the customer's approval.

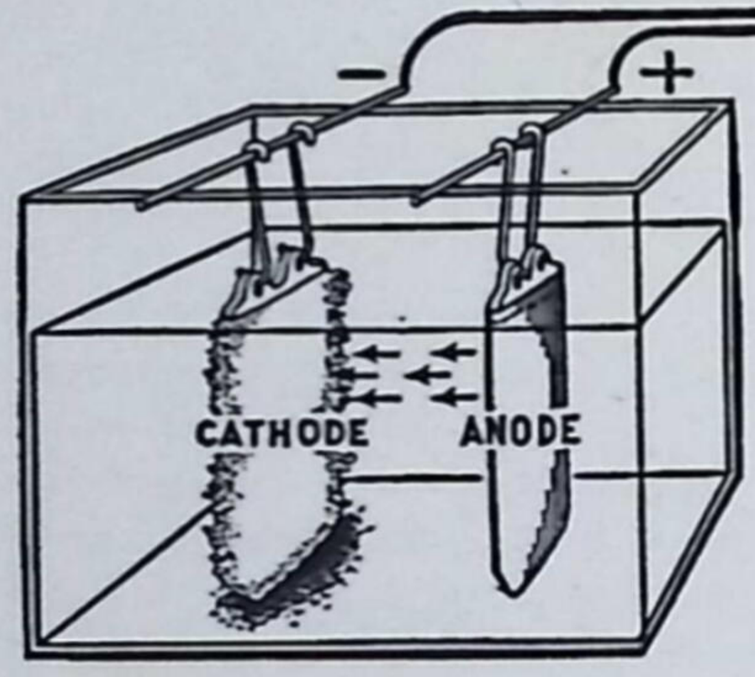
ELECTROLYTIC PARTING



Direct current for the electrolysis is supplied by a rectifier.

The parting alloy is cast into an anode bar, which is suspended in a canvas bag.





Current passing through the cell causes silver and base metals in the anode to become dissolved in the electrolyte.

The silver forms crystals on the cathode which drop to the bottom of the cell. The base metals stay in solution, and the gold remains in the bag.

REFINING

The most efficient method of refining gold is the electrolytic process which is continuous and is divided into two steps. The first is a parting process to remove the major impurities; the second step is the production of pure gold.

Various bullions are melted together with silver to make a parting alloy, similar to that described under assaying, and cast into anode bars called "parting anodes".

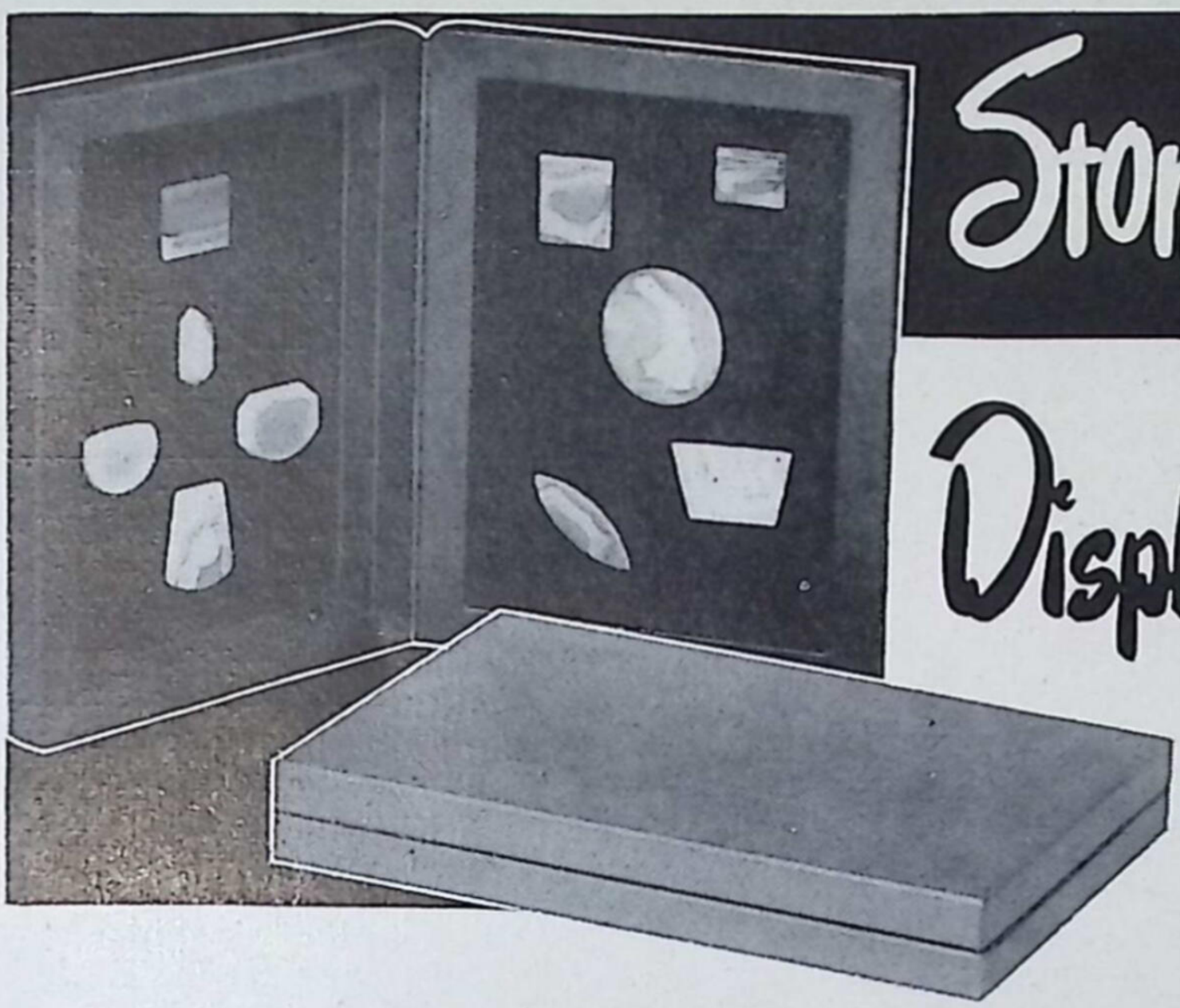
The parting anodes are placed in canvas bags and suspended by silver hooks from positive bus bars in a parting cell. The electrolyte is a solution of silver nitrate containing nitric acid. It is maintained at a temperature of 130°F. and is constantly circulated. Direct current of heavy density is passed through the cell from anode to cathode. This causes most of the silver and base metals to enter the solution, leaving behind the gold and platinum metals. The silver plates out on the cathode in the form of crystals, which drop off and fall to the bottom of the cell, where they are collected in a tray. The copper and other base metals form nitrates and remain in solution.

These nitrates increase the resistance of the electrolyte so that it is necessary after each run to withdraw part of the solution and replace it with fresh electrolyte. At the same time the silver is withdrawn from the bottom of the çell.

As the electrolytic action parts out the silver and base metals, the anode disintegrates, so that the remaining gold is like mud. This is contained in the canvas bag. Bag and contents are burned, roasted, smelted and cast into anode bars called "high grade anodes". These contain about 92% gold, all the platinum metals from the original bullions, and small amounts of silver and base metals.

The second stage of the electrolysis is conducted in a "fine gold" cell. The high grade anodes are suspended from positive bus bars by platinum hooks, and the

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gold is plated out onto thin sheets of pure gold called "starting sheets". Gold produced in this manner is 999.75 fine or better.

The electrolyte is a solution of gold chloride containing hydrochloric acid which is held at a temperature of 180°F. and is constantly circulated. The anodes are completely consumed, the silver forming silver chloride which drops to the bottom of the cell, and the platinum metals and base metals remaining in solution. The platinum metals are recovered from the spent electrolyte by chemical means as complex compounds of ammonium chloride, which are reduced to metal by ignition.

Silver—Platinum—Palladium

The foregoing has been written to illustrate the simplest possible method of handling a gold shipment, assuming the value of the silver content to be negligible and that platinum metals are present in only minute amounts if at all. When platinum metals are present, it is necessary to take the assay button into solution and separate the various component metals by established quantitative analysis methods.

Yogo Sapphire Mines To Reopen

(As reported by James J. Kehoe, Big Fork, Montana)

After many years of anticipation by the gem cutters of this country, the famous cornflower-blue sapphires of Montana are to be mined again. Four Billings, Montana, men have bought the holdings of the British syndicate which has been inactive for a long time. The Yogo mine is the largest deposit of sapphires ever found in place and the 18 claims contain more than 1500 acres.

It is planned to start mining operations next summer by working the placer deposits in a creek bottom near the old American mine. This material will be dug with a drag line and sluiced in a manner similar to the recovery of placer gold. As sapphire has a fairly high gravity it will concentrate in sluice boxes. Some gold may be recovered also as this part of the property has never been worked extensively for gold.

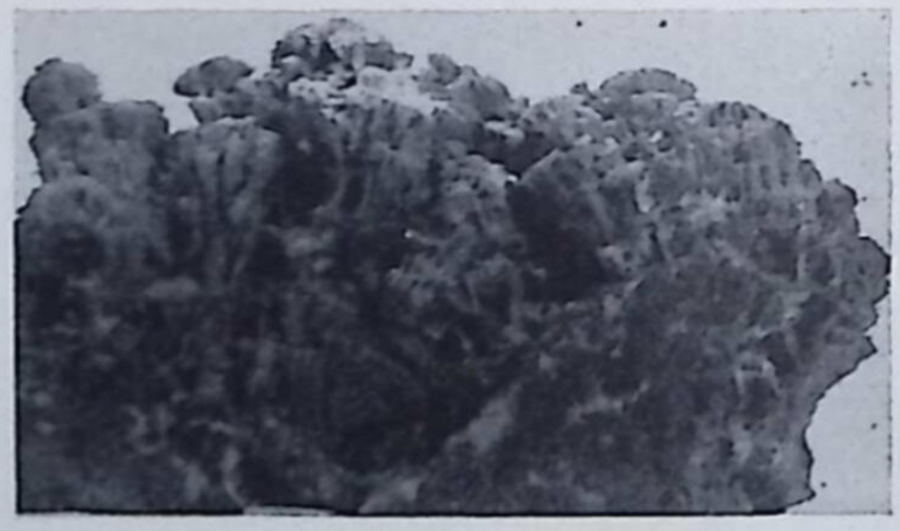
The British syndicate is said to have mined sapphires to the extent of $10,000,000 while they worked the holdings. There doubtless is this amount of stones in place in the trap rock of the dyke where they were formed. Only relatively small amount of the top weather dyke material was worked by the British. Considering that this dyke of sapphire bearing trap rock is over three miles long the amount of sapphire left to be mined should run into large figures.

Mining and washing this material takes equipment and a lot of water. Probably a new flume will have to be built to bring in water. The old flume used in prior operations has fallen into decay from lack of use. The amount of water available is governed by the amount of snow fall of the previous winter. If a better source of water can be found future mining operations could be carried on more steadily during the warmer months.

Due to the dollar shortage the British syndicate was willing to return the property to American interests. It is hoped by the amateur and professional facet cutter alike that the fine blue stones in the rough will soon be back on the market.

While the synthetic stones produced today are pretty and wear well in jewelry, they do not have the intrinsic or sentimental value of the genuine blue stones. (See *Yogo Sapphire of Montana* in August, 1948 *Journal.*)

WHAT IS IT?



Frank Morse of Bayfield, Colo., bought the specimen pictured above at the mineral and gem show held last year at Albuquerque by the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies. An examination of the rock at the Colorado School of Mines at Golden, Colo., indicated that the "hairs" are manganese covered with silica. The rock has been on display at the Colorado Museum and the Denver Museum.

Is this sagenite in the making? Communicate your ideas to Mr. Morse. We may publish more about this interesting rock when information is available and run a photo later on of a slab of it.

KARAT GOLDS

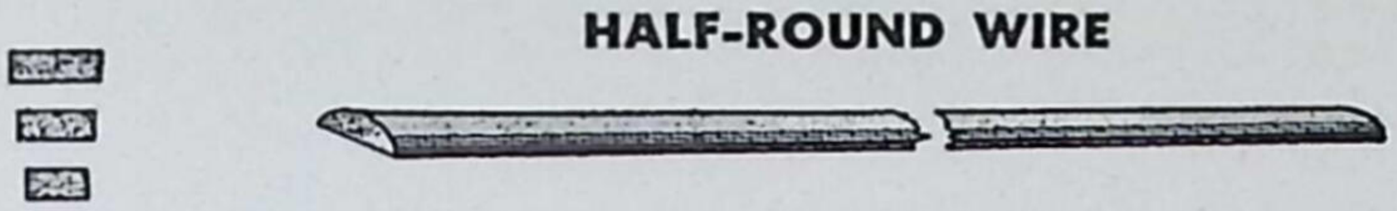
PLATINUM - PALLADIUM - SILVER

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HALF-ROUND WIRE



SQUARE WIRE



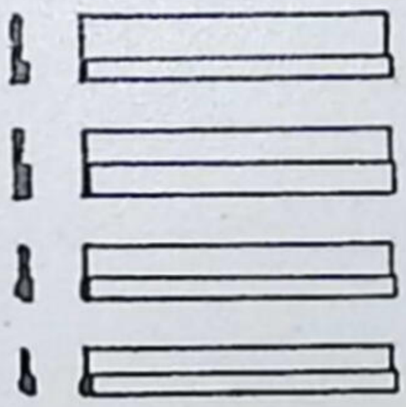
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◆ Optical Examination of Faceted Stones

By GRIFFIN GRANT WAITE
38 St. Germain Ave., Toronto 12, Canada

The testing of cut stones by dichroscope, spectroscope and refractometer to determine their species is common. Inspection by loupe or microscope for the same purpose and for the detection of flaws is even more common. The method, principles and equipment to be described has nothing to do with gem identification except as an incidental by-product and is not for the purpose of discovering imperfections in the ordinary sense. In basic principle it is the very old card test; but with a permanent set-up and means for measurements added it becomes a powerful new tool that is believed to be new to students of gems.

As can be seen in the photograph on Page 422 the equipment is a very simple optical bench. A base about two feet long and six inches wide has a light source at one end and the stone to be tested at the other. The light source was improvised from a Mark 9. U.S. Naval Ordnance gun sight. The requirements are a narrow strong beam of parallel light incident on the crown of the stone under test. The auxiliary lens shown near the center of the optical bench is merely for improving the parallelism of the light. A better light source would not require this feature.

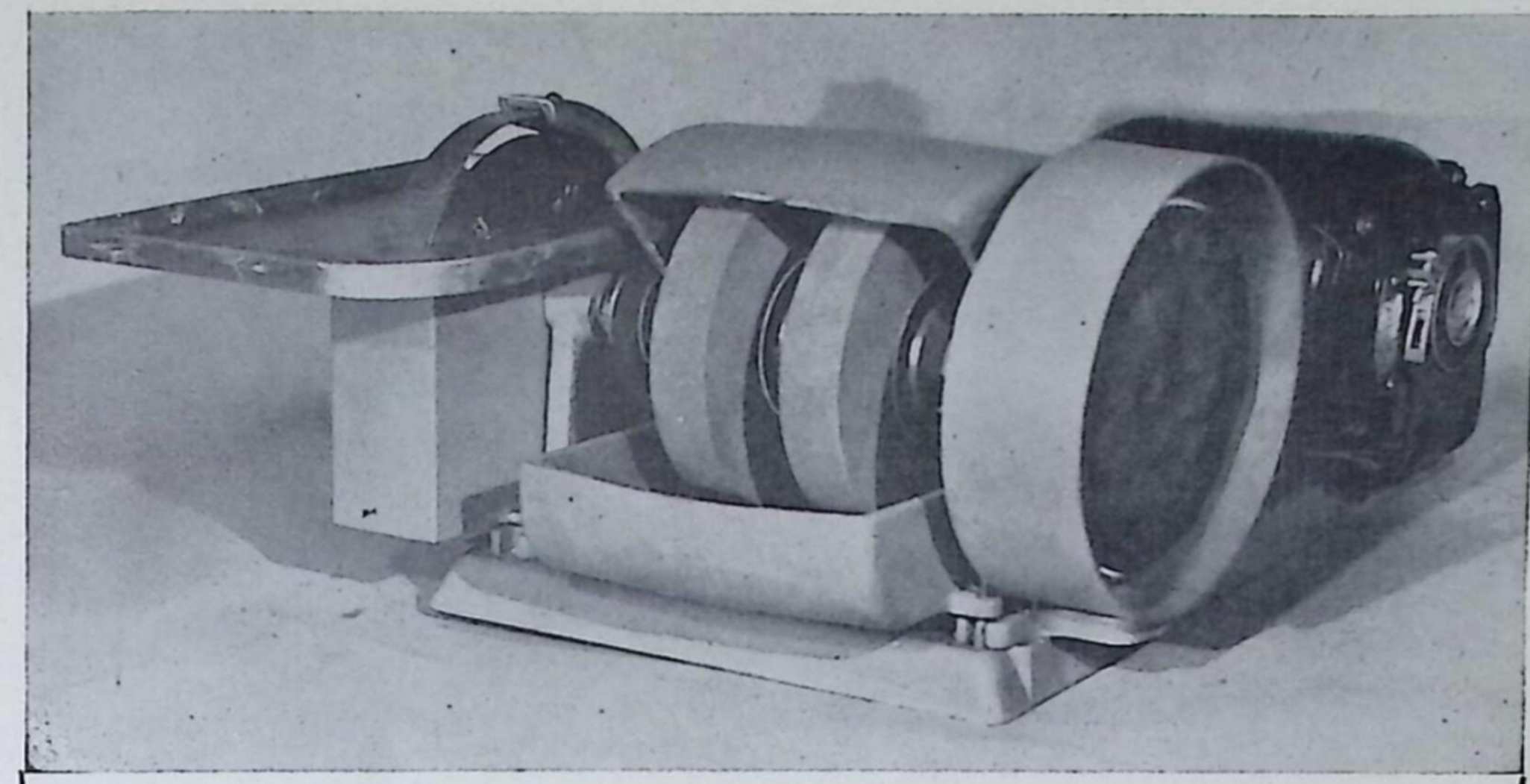
About 1⅜ inches in front of the gem is a 6″ square of white cardboard with a hole for the light to pass through. This hole was made over an inch in diameter to accommodate large gems. The circular disc, with a choice of diminishing hole sizes, is arranged so that a proper sized hole can be selected to suit the gem under test.

The gem to be tested is mounted by pushing it into an appropriate hole in the center of a 2″ square of cardboard. The square cardboard holder with the gem is then inserted in the holder. The holder is fixed to the base of the optical bench by a single bolt and the axis of rotation is closely through the plane of the holder and hence through the girdle of the gem. A protractor fastened to the bench allows reading the angle at which the light strikes the crown (or plane of the girdle) of the gem. This angle is therefore the angle of incident light shining on the stone.

On the side of the 6″ square of white cardboard adjacent to the gem, circles to represent solid angles are drawn. These circles allow one to observe and state the area covered by the display of light thrown back from the illuminated gem. With the display screen 1⅜″ from the girdle of the gem a solid angle or cone of light of 120° originating from the gem would cover a circle of 1.73x1⅜″=2.37 inch radius, since tan 60°=1.73. Circles for every 10° interval from 130° down were drawn.

If a six inch square of photographic paper is carefully exposed, a record of the display can be obtained. It is of course necessary to cut a hole of appropriate size in the center of the photographic paper to let the incident light through. By the use of photographic paper any gem may be allowed to write its own autograph. This could be of importance for the legal identification of a gem in a case of disputed ownership.

Centered over the back of the gem is a 1½″ diameter hemisphere of frosted glass. The frosting is on the inside surface. This is for the purpose of examining the light lost out of the back of the gem. As the gem stone is turned slowly so that the incident light strikes at an ever increasing angle a point will be reached when there is an increase in the amount of light lost through the back. With low refractive index gems this limiting angle, called hereafter the "aspect angle," is small. With gems of high refractive index this angle (other things being equal) is large. This means that, generally speaking, the higher the Index of Refraction, the less light is lost out of the back for a given aspect angle.



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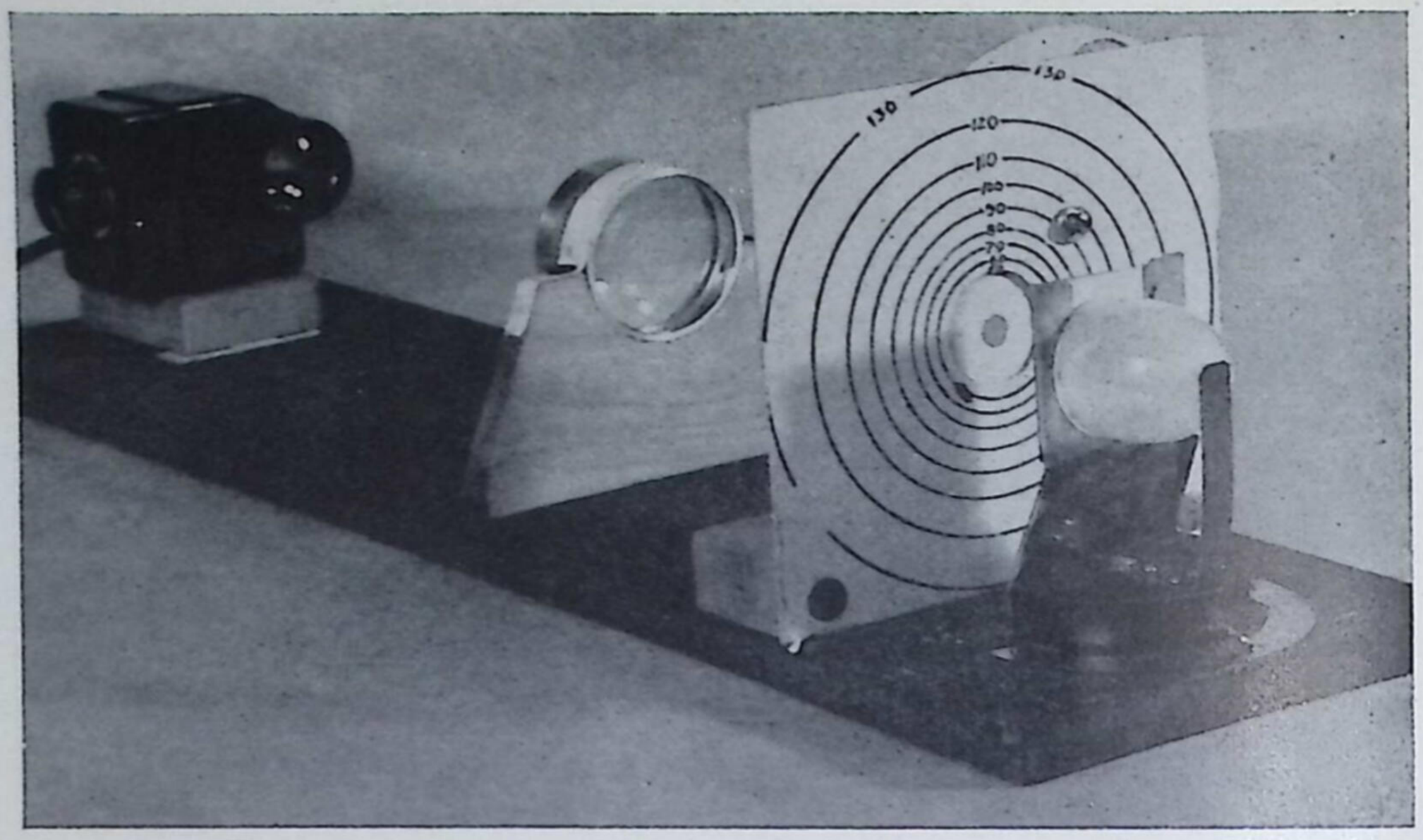
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Equipment described in accompanying article

USES OF EQUIPMENT

1. As an aid to study light behavior in faceted gems. Rays may be traced in faceted gems by the use of one or two small shutters on wire handles. The effect of blocking off or illuminating any particular facet is easily seen on the display. This is just as readily done for oblique illumination as for normal incidence of light.
2. By determining the area illuminated, the distribution of light spots over this area, and the light lost out of the back, the success of a given design of cut can be evaluated. This equipment is therefore a *key that can unlock improvement in the proportions and angles of cut gems.* Improvement in the design of faceted gems of low refractive index is badly needed. Many quartz gems, for example, now being cut are far from efficient because of a loss of too much light through the back.
3. A photographic autograph of an important cut gem may be taken and filed, thus affording valuable evidence in the case of a dispute over ownership.
4. A lapidary can readily show a customer the superiority of a gem from the optical standpoint in a way obvious to any layman.
5. As an aid to gem identification. After the user of this equipment obtains experience a great deal of guidance is available for the identification of a gem. The amount of dispersion can be estimated from the dimensions of the rainbows shown on the display. The amount of bi-refringence may be estimated by the separation of the double spots of light. The presence or absence of double spots indicates doubly refracting or optically isotropic material respectively.

With the display screen marked out with circles denoting solid angles it is possible to estimate the bi-refringence and dispersion numerically. Thus, for example: if a measurement of dimension between the blue and red portions of a particular spot showed an angle of 8½° it could not be produced by a stone of lesser dispersion than zircon. Note that in any particular spot the actual spread of the spectrum may not attain 8½°. 8½° is the *maximum* that can be obtained under the most favorable conditions for zircon.

(Note: This article was written early in 1948, antedating similar material that appeared in the press regarding a method of "finger printing diamonds." Ed.)

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◆ Some New Silver Craft Ideas



The items pictured above (drawn by George F. Pinard of the JOURNAL office) were made by Clemente Urrutia, 7610 S. Western Ave., Los Angeles. Clemente (almost no one calls him Mr. Urrutia) is almost "official" silversmith to the Los Angeles Lapidary Society. They recently presented him with an elaborate engraved certificate of appreciation for all the favors he has done for that society and its various members. At the top we see a candle snuffer with a rim of small opals and a handle of black onyx. This is 8¼" long. At the left is a pickle fork set with Montana moss agate — 5½" long. Pointing off to the right is a mayonnaise spoon 5" long; also set with Montana agate. The little spoon in the bottom center is a seashell, sandcast in silver. It has a handle of black onyx. While this may be used as a salt spoon it was intended by Clemente to be a powder spoon for transferring face powder from its package to a compact. (Most women use the end of a nail file for this purpose — and spill the powder everywhere but into the compact.) While no one will mistake the item in the center for anything other than a cocktail shaker they could be fooled. For this piece is a lipstick holder and is but 2½" long. The top is set with a carnelian. By making a silver collar (illustrated) almost any standard brand of lipstick can be made to fit the "shaker." And of course, it screws in and out. Try some of these ideas for your next show and for gifts.

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◆ The Jubilee Cut

We offer the fourth in a series of sixteen facet cuts in which we give the angles for cutting the jubilee cut. In the next column are the recommended angles for quartz on 96 index equipment. The recommended laps and polishing agents for topaz and angles for 64 index equipment are given on the opposite page. This material has been prepared for us by M. D. R. Mfg. Co. (see ads on inside front cover and Page 438) 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*.

THE JUBILEE CUT

The cutting of the Jubilee will present problems for the cutter if any of the facets are overcut, and it may then be necessary to change the indexing or the angles used by the authors in order to maintain the indicated facet shapes.

The stone should be roughed out with a shallow, rounding cone comprising approximately ⅓ of the total depth of the stone for the crown, and a rounding cone of approximately ⅔ the total depth for the pavilion. If the cones are brought to a sharp point, then it will not be possible to lay the facets in properly.

The 25° angle facets are cut only as far as is necessary to bring all eight facets to a point at the center of the stone.

The 35° angle facets should be cut so that the points projecting farthest into the center of the stone correspond to the 40% radius allotted to the table of a standard brilliant cut.

Cut the 46° angle facets pointing up to the point of the table facets and an imaginary girdle line.

NOTE:—The use of a compound angle is required with the 96 Index. When the proper skewing is obtained by trial cuts, proceed to cut *EVERY OTHER* 46° angle facet, indexing 3-15-27-etc., and cut the *REMAINING FACETS* after the skew is adjusted in the opposite direction, indexing 9-21-33-etc. *BE SURE THE COMPOUND ANGLE POINTER IS RETURNED TO 90° AFTER ALL 46° FACETS ARE CUT.*

The girdle is ground at this point, using outer point of 46° facets as a reference for rounding up the stone.

Following are the angles for quartz.

ORDER OF CUTTING—Crown

GRIND 1st—Eight facets at 25° Indexing 6-18-30-42-54-66-78-90.

GRIND 2nd—Eight facets at 35° indexing 96-12-24-36-48-60-72-84.

***GRIND 3rd—Sixteen facets at 46° indexing 3-9-15-21-27-33-39-45-51-57-63-69-75-81-87-93.**

GRIND 4th—Sixteen facets at 54° indexing 3-9-15-21-27-33-39-45-51-57-63-69-75-81-87-93.

POLISHING ORDER

Same as cutting order, using same angles and index.

***NOTE—If 46° facets do not point up, skew with compound angle screw in direction in which you need to draw facet. Cut EVERY OTHER facet only; then skew same amount in opposite direction and cut the remaining alternate facets.**

FACETED GIRDLE LINE—Using index 3-9-15 etc., and cut girdle at 90°.

ORDER OF CUTTING—Pavilion

GRIND 1st—Eight facets at 44° indexing 6-18-30-42-54-66-78-90.

GRIND 2nd—Eight facets at 30° indexing 6-18-30-42-54-66-78-90.

GRIND 3rd—Eight facets at 43° indexing 96-12-24-36-48-60-72-84.

GRIND 4th—Sixteen facets at 50° indexing 3-9-15-21-27-33-39-45-51-57-63-69-75-81-87-93.

USE CERIUM OXIDE ON A LUCITE LAP TO POLISH QUARTZ.

JUBILEE CUT
Angles for Topaz
(64 Index)

ORDER OF CUTTING—
Crown

GRIND 1st—Eight facets at 22° indexing 64-8-16-24-32-40-48-56.

GRIND 2nd—Eight facets at 32° indexing 4-12-20-28-36-44-52-60.

GRIND 3rd—Sixteen facets at 43° indexing 1-7-9-15-17--23-25-31-33-39-41-47-49-55-57-63.

GRIND 4th—Sixteen facets at 47° indexing 2-6-10-14-18-22-26-30-34-38-42-46-50-54-58-62.

POLISHING ORDER

Same as cutting order, using same angles and index.

NOTE — Cut 22° angle facets only as far as is necessary to bring all eight facets to a point. Then cut 32° facets so that outer points correspond to the 40% allowed for the table of a standard brilliant cut stone. Cut 43° facets pointing up to the point of the table facets and an imaginary girdle line.

ORDER OF CUTTING—
Pavilion

GRIND 1st—Eight facets at 49° indexing 64-8-16-24-32-40-48-56.

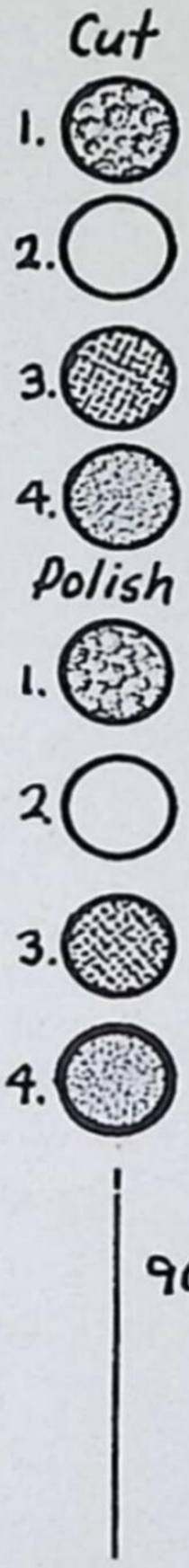
GRIND 2nd—Eight facets at 39° indexing 64-8-16-24-32-40-48-56.

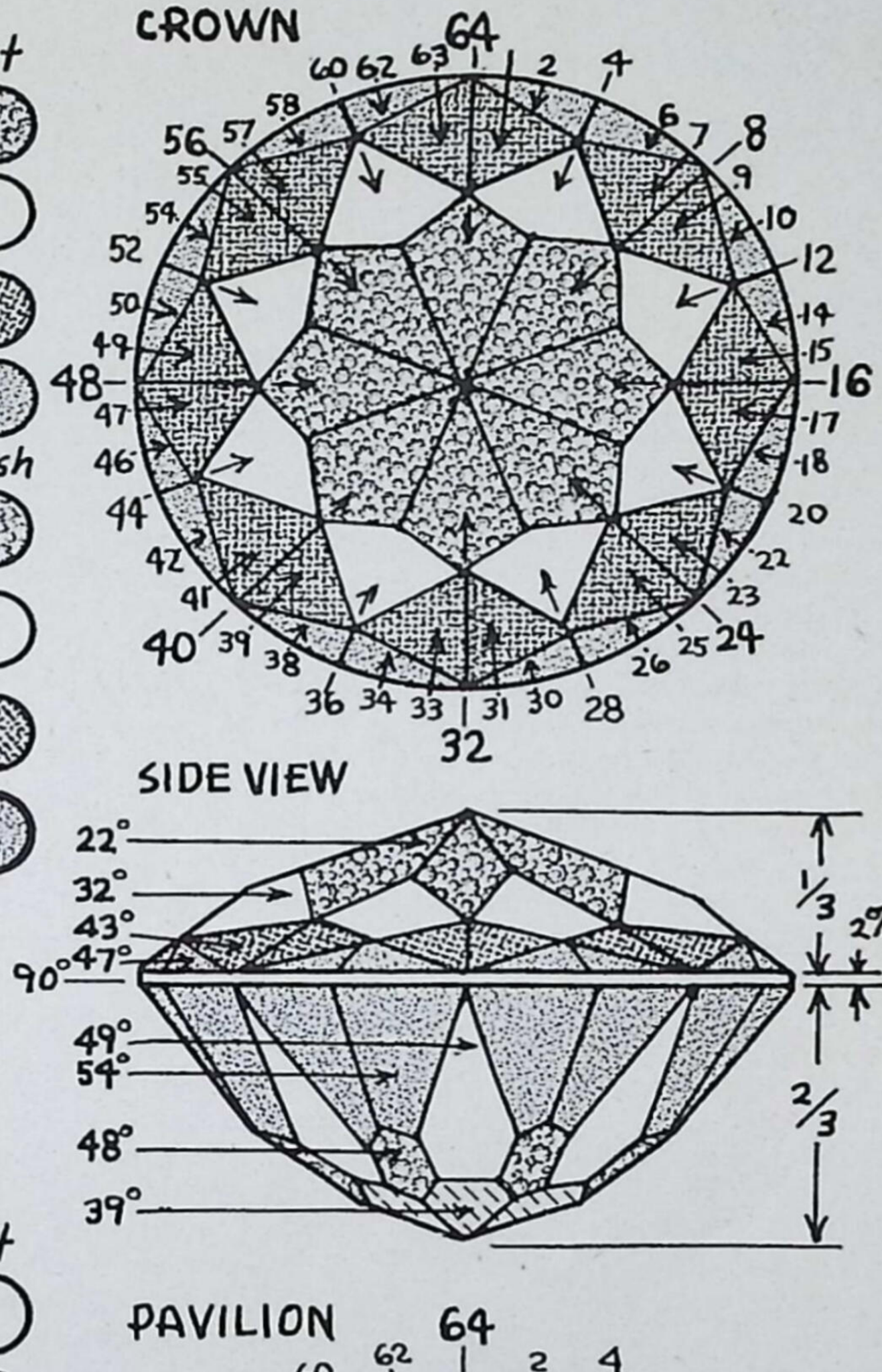
GRIND 3rd—Eight facets at 48° indexing 4-12-20-28-36-44-52-60.

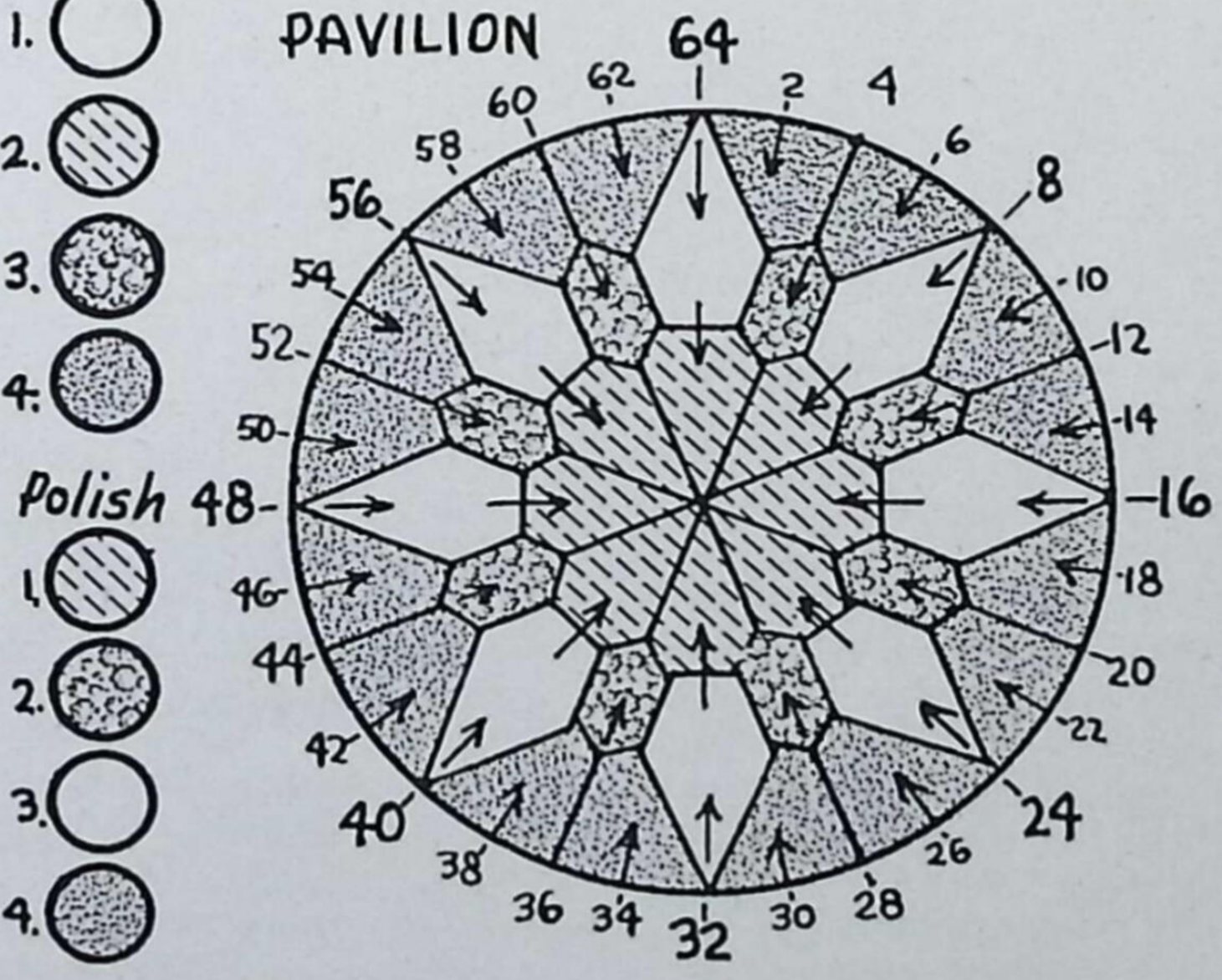
GRIND 4th—Sixteen facets at 54° indexing 2-6-10-14-18-22-26-30-34-38-42-46-50-54-58-62.

POLISHING ORDER

Always polish from the culet to the girdle. See polishing order on right, using same angles and index as was used in cutting.







Use Linde A, Damascus Ruby or Ruby Dix powder on a tin lap.
Use Linde A powder or Cerium Oxide on a lucite lap.
Use Linde A powder on a type metal lap. (Preferred.)

◆ Of Men and Gems

By ROBERT TESMER
229 Colonial Arcade, Cleveland, Ohio
Member of Cleveland Lapidary Society

As I sit down to my typewriter I notice that in one hour the Lapidary Society of Cleveland, Ohio will hold its monthly meeting. In one hour men and women from all sections of this city will gather together to think and talk rocks and gems. Meetings, such as this one will be, are common in America these days. People are eating quick suppers and hurrying off to learn how to polish kunzite. A dentist is tired of polishing molars and wants to try his hand at putting a shine on nephrite. One or two shop men are planning to make a faceting head on company time.

I must be on time for this meeting because I am interested in the men and women who will attend. They are sure to be very much like those people in many other cities who have found a common interest. And by listening to their talk and watching them closely I may come to know the reason why men are interested in rocks and are quickly fascinated by a simple thunderegg or a brilliant zircon.

I have heard individuals with various reasons for their enthusiasm of gem-lore. I have listened to apologies from many persons because of their marriage to this hobby. They all give reasons. Women give excuses for liking opal. Men give reaons for liking Jade. "Jade's hard," they say; but so is a fender on a Ford. "Jade's soapy and interesting," but so is a candle. "Jade's romantic and inspiring," but so is a high school girl. Just what is the power in a *gem?* What set of circumstances bid you to enter the halls of the lapidary art?

Strange are the students of gem-lore. I know a homely man who collects nothing but Montana agate "heels." I know a beautiful woman who sands opal cabochons by hand. I know an engineer who would rather cut a gem than build a bridge. I know a woman jeweler who only sells her best merchandise to those people with "spirit." I know many men and women whose lives are gems whether they know it or not.

I have many letters on my desk. Some are requests for a new essay on jade; and so I am publishing a booklet about jade carving. The "book" will have one page and sell for a smile. It is sure to be the last word on stone carving even though the book is only one word long. This word is more important than the machinery, the cost of material or the horsepower required for the carving bench. The word is "patience". No piece of jade has ever been carved without this simple ingredient.

Another letter from a critic scolds me for too much second-hand philosophy and not enough technical information. And as I look back through my years with gems I realize that actually I have not made one single solid contribution to the lapidary hobby. I have not discovered how to make tiger-eye blue or how to stop Virgin Valley opal from cracking. I have only listened and followed. The only excuse I have is the fact that the men who cut stones are more important to me than the stones themselves. The reason why men like to hold a nephrite boulder is much more important to me than the chemical composition of this mineral. For centuries a whole nation has hauled jade over the mountains, carved it, polished it, and certainly loved it without knowing how much water and iron the rough rock contained. Figures and symbols have nothing to do with happiness. They are made and charted for people without imagination.

The gem-cutter of today is another singer without a voice. He is another preacher with a sermon but without the tongue for public speaking. He is the only person with a hobby that will let him go to the basement, or stay next to the kitchen sink, and cut the same type of rock the Tibetans carried across the rim of the world many centuries ago. With a grinding tool and an hour he may carve a turquoise scarab that would have made King Tutankhamen sit up and take notice.

Men of the past have missed something. Surely Oscar Wilde, who wrote one of the most descriptive paragraphs on gems, should have tried his hand at cutting a carbuncle. His sentences men-

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tioning "pistachio colored peridots and red gold sunstones" can be found in his book "The Picture of Dorian Grey." And you can be sure that Ralph Emerson would have changed sanding cloths the minute he returned from the lecture room, had a modern lap been available. It was Emerson who in a quick paragraph likened man to feldspar. "Men and a feldspar gem," he said, "only show their true colors when they are turned the right way."

I remember a day I spent looking for "rock books"; those out-of-print and hard-to-find items that are always found in the other fellow's library. In one store, out of reach, and on the highest shelf I saw the four letters: O-P-A-L. Here was a find. Tonight, I imagined, I could leave *Life* and the *Post* alone and read some wanted words about that fiery gem. I called the clerk and five minutes and one step-ladder later I had my prize in my hand. I opened the cover and read: "Opal, The Adventures of a Lonely Girl."

Men of the future will cut their gems. And it may not be long now before Sears, Roebuck and Company will display a junior gem-grinder next to a drill press and a wood saw. New dealers spring up in all sections of the country. Some will survive. Others will go back to selling clothes for Schwartz the tailor and a few will decide that selling gasoline would be much more profitable. I shall never thoroughly understand just why, the very moment that the first cabochon is polished, the cutter thinks of nailing up a shingle. Every time five new dealers open their doors the earth gives up enough gem quality rough for three faceted stones. At this rate and in a few years we can expect a gem store next to every beer parlor and the entire earth to resemble the beaches of Normandy.

But man must have his gems. The pretty bride-to-be has her diamond. A youth stops running for a moment to admire his warrior-head cameo; while the bishop counts the facets on his amethyst. Man must have his gems because he must stay close to the earth—his home. He was born of its violence and comes to rest in its quietness. During the interval in the sun he must occasionally consider the beauty and purpose of this earth. He must take it to himself in one way or another. If it was at all possible to make a bezel big enough, he would certainly set Mt. Whitney in gold to be worn on very special occasions.

It is time for me to leave for that meeting and a lecture on beryl. I want to be prompt even though I will probably sigh when the learned speaker explains that aquamarine is nothing more than $BeAl_2(SiO_3)_6$. But as the evening grows older and the charts and figures are placed back in the briefcase, I shall look around me and know the reason for gems: *Man is just a little bit happier while he is wearing a fragment of the earth.*

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J. C. Filer & Son, 1344 Highway 99, San Bernardino
Gem Arts, 4286 Marlborough Avenue, San Diego 5
Gordon's, 1850 E. Pacific Coast Highway, Long Beach 6
Grieger's, 1633 E. Walnut St., Pasadena 4
Highland Park Lapidary Supply Co., 1009 Mission Street, South Pasadena
A. L. Jarvis, Route 2, Box 350, Watsonville
J. J. Jewelcraft, 915 E. Wash., Pasadena 6
J. Lavering, 1140 Adams St., Redwood City
M.D.R. Manufacturing Company, 4853 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles 16
Minerals Unlimited, 1724 University Avenue, Berkeley
Orange Coast Gem Crafts, 1106 Coast Highway, Corona Del Mar
Porter's Lapidary, 365 Marsh Street, San Luis Obispo
Quality Rock & Gem Shop, 4140 Chester Avenue, Bakersfield
R & B Artcraft, 11021 South Vermont, Los Angeles 44

COLORADO
The Gem Exchange, Bayfield

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Washington School of Gemology, 1018 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington 5

IDAHO
Stewart's Gem Shop, 2620 Idaho St., Boise

ILLINOIS
A. Joseph Alessi, 430 South Highland Avenue, Lombard

IOWA
Roth's Agate Shop, 1117 W. 6 St., Waterloo

MICHIGAN
Michigan Lapidary Supply & Research Company, 332 Hamilton St., Birmingham

NEW JERSEY
Garden State Minerals, 1034 Bloomield Street, Hoboken

NEW YORK
Technicraft Lapidaries Corp., 3560 Broadway, New York 31

OHIO
Akron Lapidary Co., 1095 Chalker Street, Akron 10
B. M. Brehm, 990 Dana Street N.E., Warren
Lee Lapidaries, 1916 West 75th Street, Cleveland 2

OKLAHOMA
Oklahoma Lapidary Supply Co., 2017 N.W. 22nd, Oklahoma City 6

OREGON
Hodge Podge Shop, Route 4 Box 284, Grants Pass
Montana Assay Office, 610 S.W. Second Avenue, Portland

TEXAS
El Paso Rock and Lapidary Supply, 2401 Pittsburg Street, El Paso
Odom's, Star Route A, Box 32C, Austin

WASHINGTON
Fulmer's Agate Shop, 5212 Rainier Avenue, Seattle 8
The Conley Co., W. 715 Riverside, Spokane

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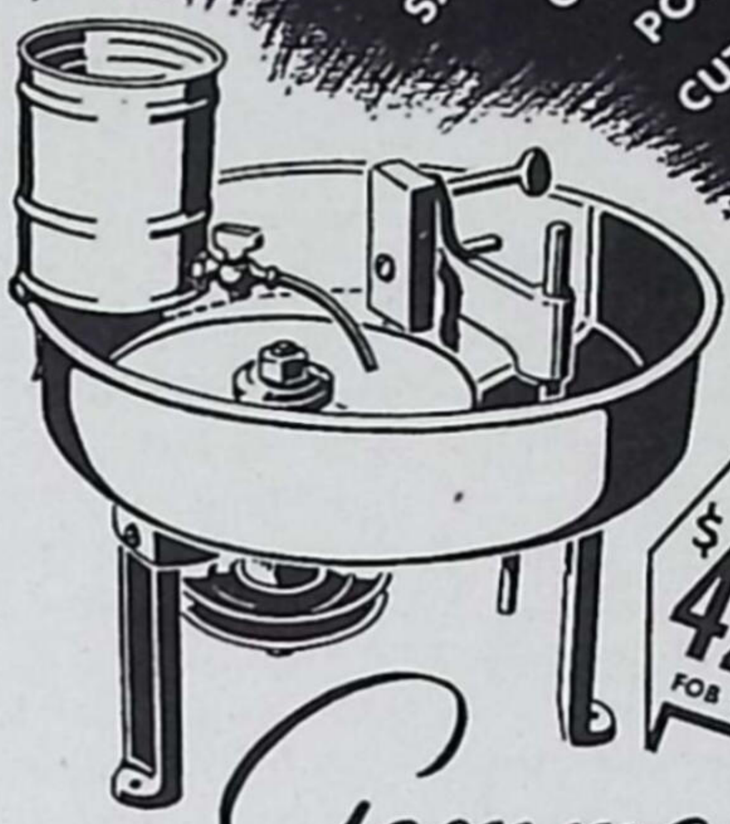
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◆ No Association Is Needed

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

(Editor's note. On Page 276 of the October 1949 issue of the *Journal* we printed news of the well intentioned movement to organize an association of lapidary societies. At that time we offered a $10.00 cash prize for the best article on the subject "Association Now" and an equal amount for the best article on the subject "No Association Is Needed." While several persons told us they had articles in preparation none arrived in time for this issue except Mr. Soper's. We print it as we believe no one could present the negative side any better. It should offer those who have other ideas something to shoot at and we publish it to stimulate active thought on a widely discussed matter.)

The question "Shall we form a federation of lapidary and gem societies?" is a broad topic and lends itself to serious debate. To begin with, we stipulate that the exploration and development of the idea into a working organization is not an impossibility, for the time has come when it may truly be said that almost anything is possible.

The writer spent his boyhood days on a farm in Michigan. Had anyone told him as a boy that he would live to see a war in which men fought in the clouds, or that he would one day sit and watch motion pictures of events as they transpired thousands of miles away, he would most certainly have said, "impossible," Yet we have all seen these things.

Therefore, we do not say, "*It can't be done.*" We do not even say that it will *not be done*—at least as an experiment. But if this experiment is undertaken, let us approach it from the standpoint of advancing the lapidary art; and let us dedicate our efforts to the end that this organization shall not deteriorate into a movement to promote the personal interests and ambitions of a few politicians who happen to be rockhounds. We feel that in the progress made to date in forming the skeleton organization, every effort has been put forth to protect the small societies from being hidden in a smoke sceren by the larger ones and to prevent any would-be politicians from gaining control of the Association if and when it is formed.

However, we choose to take the negative side of this question for four reasons:

First: Because we believe that the forming of an Association will in no way further the interests of the members of any society as a group.

Second: Because in forming an Association we are getting away from the grass roots from which these societies have grown and from which they draw their strength.

Third: Because we fail to see where an Association will tend to advance the lapidary art.

Fourth: Because we also believe that about all we will ever receive from an Association is a receipt for dues.

The apreciation of the beauty and value of gems is not a new thing. It has been handed down to us from a time when finishing a stone was accomplished with very crude tools and the proper faceting of a gem had not even been developed. Despite this, the inherent beauty was recognized and appreciated. Gems could be owned or worn only by those having great wealth because of their intrinsic value. Yet it cannot be contended that the poor did not see the beauty in them although they could not possess them.

It is a far cry from then to now, when nearly everyone may own a gemstone of at least some value. The change is as marked in what is now considered a gemstone as in those who may own it. The average rockhound of today prefers a stone which at some time has been faulted, giving it a variety of colors and sometimes even "pictures"; whereas the ancients preferred the pure, clear, flawless gems.

Just where or when this individual whom we term a "rockhound" came into

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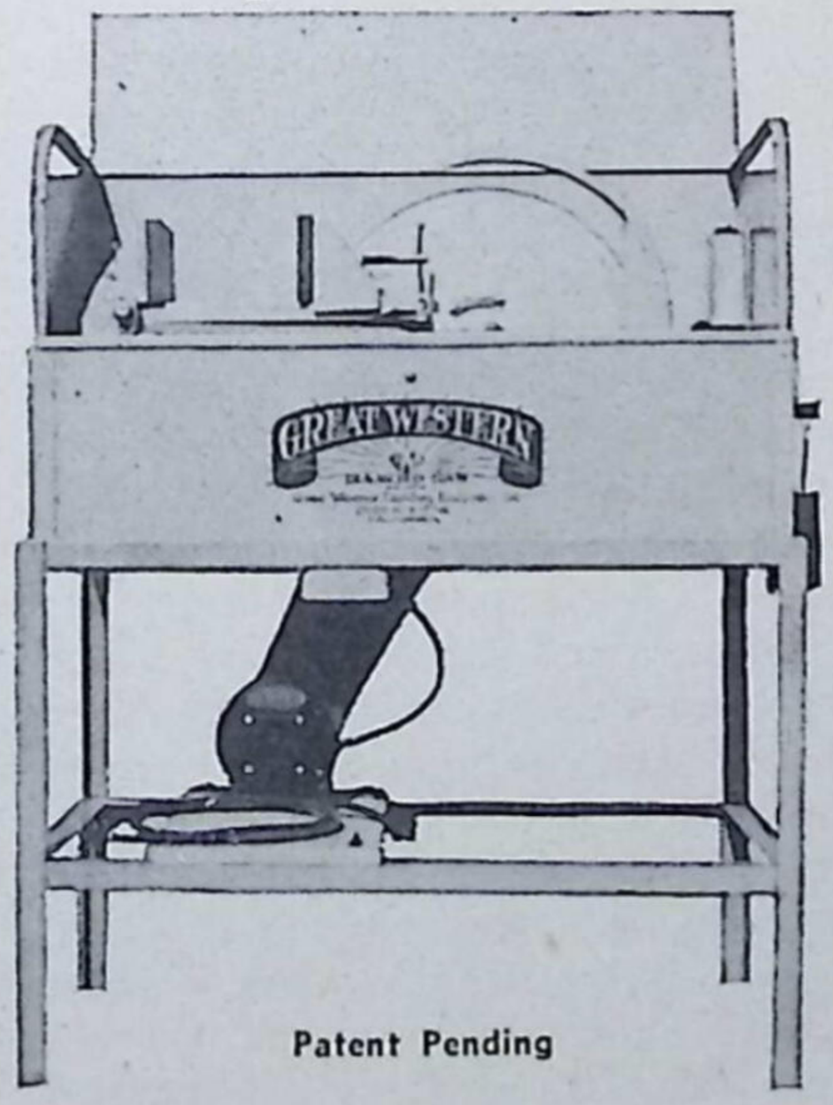
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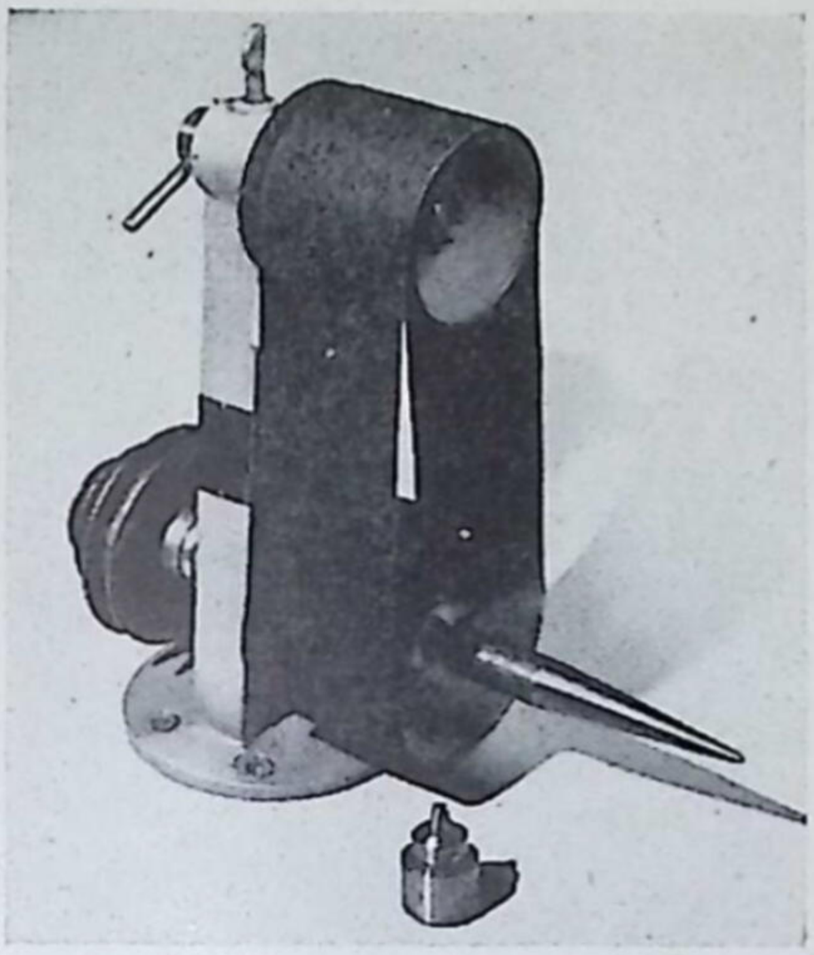
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HARRY M. KOONS, *Director*

this picture is difficult to say but it is very recently that lapidaries began to organize into societies—just ten years to be exact. The first lapidary society in America was formed in February of 1940 and is known as the Los Angeles Lapidary Society. This Society has sponsored seven others in Southern California. In addition, many mineral societies existing at that time have embraced the lapidary art and now call themselves Mineral and Gem Societies. This grouping of interests is a natural desire on the part of the individual to learn how others do the things he has been doing; to improve his methods and craftsmanship; to seek the acquaintance and fellowship of those interested in the things in which he himself is interested.

Societies are thus formed by people living in a given area who come to know each other and to be mutually helpful. We believe in them. We also believe that they should join as a group periodically and have a show in their own community, by their own artisans; invite their friends, the members of other societies and anyone they feel may be interested in their craftsmanship. These small shows afford an opportunity for members to become better acquainted as craftsmen and as individuals. We come to know and admire fellow members by the work they do. And after a show there is always increased interest shown in our crafts by people who were formerly perfect strangers. Many a true, helpful, lasting friendship has begun at a small show.

We have heard but two reasons given for this Association movement. One is that we must form an Association because the dealers will no longer support the small shows and without the dealers these shows cannot be financed. We take issue with this contention; first, because the dealers need our shows as an advertising medium as much as we need the dealers' money to finance our shows; and second, because we believe shows can be financed, dealers or no dealers. It might be enlightening to have the dealers hold their own show for one year. This would prove which group draws the crowd—the lapidaries or the dealers. The second reason we have heard for forming an Association is no better than the first. It is that an Association would wipe out the jealousies between societies. Our contention on this point is that these jealousies are not between the societies as such, but



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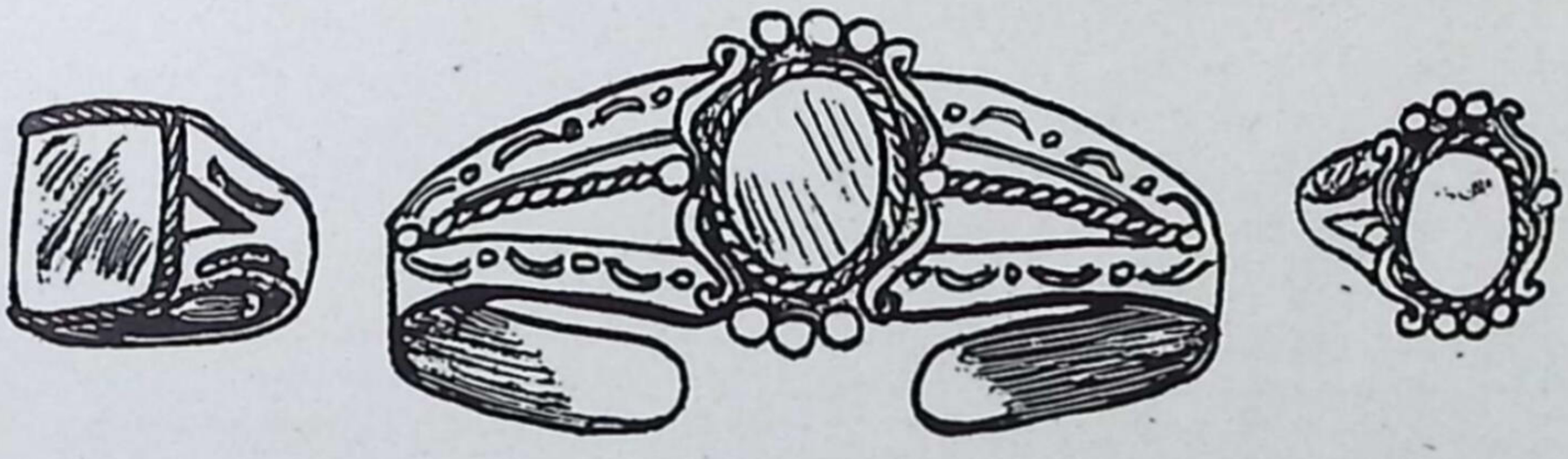
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are petty jealousies between members of one society and members of some other society. These jealousies do not belong in *any* society. There are also jealousies *within* societies between their own members. *How would an Association eliminate this?*

Let us, for purposes of debate, assume that we have this Association of Lapidary Societies all set up and we are ready to prepare for our big anual show. Are there men and women among us having the necessary requisites for handling a show of this magnitude, who are able to give the time and who have the inclination to do so? We doubt it. Why? Because it is too much of a thankless task. If you are skeptical about this point, ask anyone who has been a show chairman. But, again for argument's sake, let us assume we have the necessary personnel to handle the show. Just where are we going to hold it? There are only two places in Los Angeles County large enough, provided we limit the space allotted to dealers and limit the displays by the the various societies. Will that be satisfactory? We doubt that too, because every dealer of any consequence, every manufacturer of lapidary equipment, every one who has a hundred dollars worth of material to sell will want space, if for no other reason than for advertising. Barring anyone from displaying at this big show who really wants to display will create more jealousies than we have had from all other reasons combined.

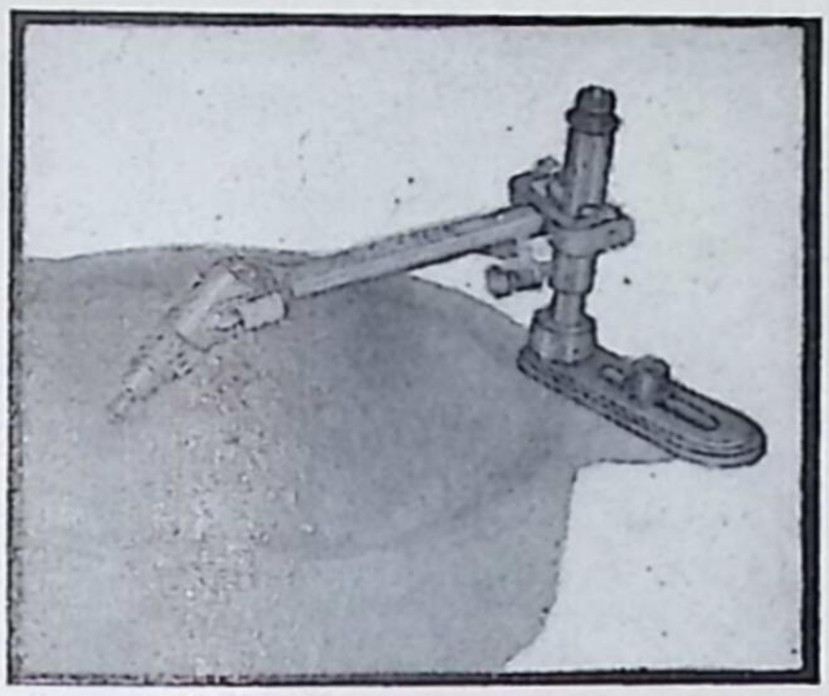
Let us ask ourselves another question. We will assume that a society of a hundred members with forty display cabinets at their own show can finance it for five hundred dollars after the cost of their display cabinets has been paid. Does any one think that the cost of a big show will increase in direct proportion to its size as compared to a small show? We will always find that the bigger a thing becomes the more it costs per unit. A show of this magnitude will cost a large sum of money. Who will finance it —the dealers? We doubt that too. If the dealers do not finance the show we begin to prorate the cost and we run into more problems than the United Nations have.

Let us suppose again that we have the show all set up and the crowds are coming in. What are they going to see? They are going to see a time-taking repetition of the same thing over and over again. In

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1	A	3.54	4.35	5.30	$ 7.48	$ 9.55
	B	3.85	4.51	5.78	8.14	10.38
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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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an hour they are tired out, and while they haven't seen half the show, they know the other half is only a repetition of what they have seen. There are any number of people who will go to a small show who positively will not go to a large one, because they do not enjoy milling around in a crowd. A crowd to them is the quickest way to grow tired. What percentage of the non-rockhounds, *who now attend the small shows in their own communities* will drive through the metropolitan areas to attend a big Association show?

This lapidary movement began as the effort of individuals. It has grown as few hobbies have grown in numbers and in interest displayed. It is estimated on good authority that *only 1% of all lapidaries belong to any society.* If 99% can get along by themselves by their individual efforts, why do we need this Association? At best it can function as a representative of only 1% of the lapidaries. *The organization we really need is one which will reach out to the individual who is too far away from population centers to belong to any society and give him a little help and encouragement.* This could be done!!

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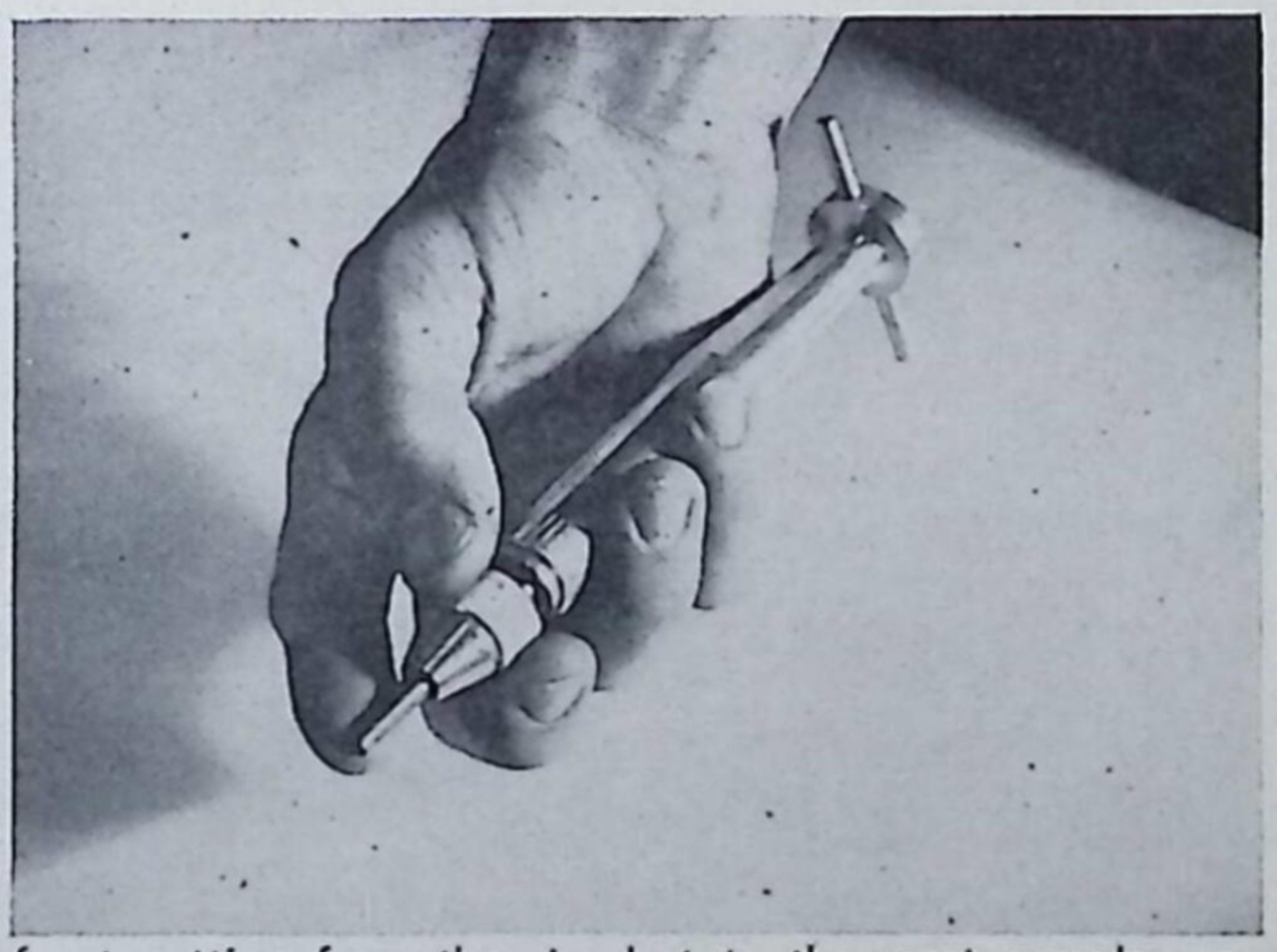
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About Our Cover

Our cover this time presents a very unique set of fine Brazilian agate book ends made by *Major Charles Travis Kennedy* of 628 Alvarado St., Redlands, Calif., a member of the *Orange Belt Mineralogical Society*. An idea of their size can be gained by comparing them with the books they are holding. Major Kennedy had looked for a large Brazilian agate that was free of fracture for a long time and he recently found one. But when he sawed it the center was a complete blank; devoid of marking or coloring. He thought he had a prize before he cut it, as the piece had come into the country more than thirty years ago, when really fine agate was coming from Brazil. Major Kennedy then conceived the idea of placing the profiles of Washington and Lincoln on the two blank surfaces. The book ends were completely polished and a rubber mask was cemented to the polished surface. The silhouettes were copied from prints in a school art magazine, reduced to size and pasted to the rubber mask in the desired positions. The outlines were then cut with a razor blade and the silhouettes were pulled away, leaving the polished surface of the book ends again exposed. The face of the book ends was then sand blasted 1/32″ deep, using fine sand and 150 pounds of pressure. The sand blasting was done at a cement works. The sand blasted silhouettes were then painted with India ink to make them very black, the masks removed and the completed book ends cleaned. Major Kennedy says he is bothered now and then by some rockhound saying "I'll bet you were surprised when the rock fell apart and you found those pictures in there." To which he usually replies "Well, I wasn't so surprised to find the silhouettes but I sure thought they'd be George and Martha and I *was* surprised to find Mr. Lincoln."

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 21-March 12—Gem and Mineral Display of the TUCSON GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY. State Museum on the University of Arizona Campus at Tucson.

February 25-26—Mineral and Gem Show of the MONTEREY BAY MINERAL SOCIETY. At Y.M.C.A.—Church and Clay Sts., Salinas, Calif.

March 10-11-12—Gem and Mineral Show—Second Annual Show of COACHELLA VALLEY MINERAL SOCIETY.
Riverside County Fair Grounds, Indio, Calif. Details from O. A. Rush, Show Chairman, Box 3362, Indio, Calif. Commercial exhibits too.

March 24-April 2 (10 days)—SECOND ANNUAL CALIFORNIA HOBBY SHOW.
Shrine Convention Hall, 700 W. 32nd St., Los Angeles. *The biggest hobby show in America.* Lapidary and Jewelry Craft hobbies heavily featured. Reduced rate admission tickets may be secured free at the *Journal* office or by mail if you send self addressed and stamped envelope.

April 22-23—Gem and Jewelry Show—Fifth Annual Show of SAN JOSE LAPIDARY SOCIETY —10 A.M. to 9 P.M. each day.
At San Jose Women's Club, 75 S. 11th St., San Jose, Calif. No commercial exhibits.

May 20-21—Gem and Jewelry Show of the GLENDALE GEM and LAPIDARY SOCIETY.
Civic Auditorium, Glendale, Calif.

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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 H. R. Simmonds, Fairbanks, Alaska.

Being a newcomer to the hobby of lapidary arts I run into problems that confuse me from time to time. Most of these have been solved by discussion with others who are familiar with them but I have found no one who can explain the degree scale on a faceting device to my satisfaction. I note that this scale on some devices is marked exactly opposite to that on others and obviously a direct degree setting on one would not cut the same angle as on another marked opposite. For instance, in the illustration on page 179 of the *Lapidary Journal* for August 1949 it appears to me that the angle cut in relation to the girdle, using a direct setting, would be the complement and not the degree marked on the scale. Would appreciate an explanation of the degree scales as applied to faceting devices and how to properly use them.

Reply by M. D. R. Mfg. Co., Los Angeles:

Most of the degree scales on the various faceting heads are marked for direct reading. However, the faceting equipment, illustrated on page 179 of the August 1949 issue, is just the opposite and the complement of the desired angle must be used. All angles are measured from the girdle. If you are cutting your main facets at 42° the complement, or 48° is used. To determine how your particular faceting head is marked extend your dop holder horizontally and if the indicator reads 90° your protractor is set for direct reading. This means your finished facet, to be placed on the stone at 42°, will read 42° when your surplus material has been ground away.

The angles illustrated on page 191 of the same issue are for direct readings. If you are using Mr. Waite's equipment or any other device where the horizontal position of the dop holder reads 0° it would be necessary to use the complement of the angle or the difference of the angle wanted subtracted from 90°. If your crown table facets are to be cut at 27° the complement would be 63°, etc. On a direct reading scale the closer to a perpendicular position your dop holder is, the smaller the angle. In other words, the table would be cut at 0°, crown table facets at 27°, main facets at 42° and girdle facets at approximately 45°. These angles are for quartz.

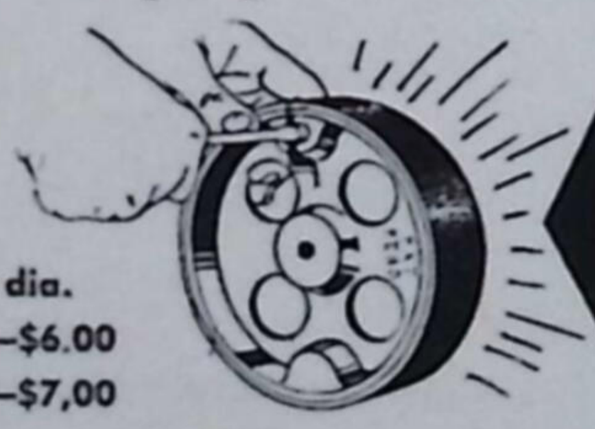
* * *

Inquiry of Floyd E. Beattie, San Francisco.

I have developed a very strong attachment for star stones. Where can I find more information on this subject? The whys and wherefores, orientation of rough stones, etc. I've combed through most of the books on gem cutting and they only have smatterings.

Answer:

See *The Star Stones* on Page 120 of the October 1947 *Journal; How To Determine an Optical Axis with Polaroid* on Page 126 of the June 1949 *Journal; Preparation of Star Quartz* on Page 124 of the October 1947 *Journal.* Wm. Schmidt & Co., Inc., 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York 20, published a beautiful and highly informative brochure on the star stones and they may send you a free copy if they have any left and you request it. The Chicago Natural History Museum (Field Museum) published a pamphlet on the subject several years ago. They may still be for sale.



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Topaz—White, Pink, Gold, Blue.
Beryl—White, Gold, Green, Blue.
Tourmaline—Green, Gold, Red, Pink, Blue.
Aquamarine—Deep Blue, Medium Blue.
Garnet—Wine Red, Cinnamon, Red.
Peridot—Light Green, Green.
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★ ★ ★

WHOLESALE **THE STETSON'S** **RETAIL**

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◆ The Best Show in 1949

It remained for the best show in 1949 to be the last show in 1949 — *and we missed it!* It was held on November 19th and 20th, a week end when we were up to our ears in work getting out the Birthstone number, which had been delayed by our trip the week before to the Las Vegas show and the accumulation of work caused by our month in the east. But so many have reported on this wonderful show we unwillingly had to forego that we are quite ready to acknowledge it as the best show in 1949. It had so many good points that an account of it, as reported by Louis B. Mousley, Show Chairman, should certainly help this year's show chairmen all over the land.

This "best" show was put on by the ORANGE BELT MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY in the National Orange Show Building at San Bernardino, Calif. There were no dealers and no commercialism and the word "free" was emphasized and followed to the letter. Free parking (3000 cars), free coat room and checking service, a free gift to every hundredth guest to register, etc. As "do not handle" signs are about as popular as "keep off the grass" signs a 10′ table was provided containing over 200 specimens of cutting material and minerals. People were invited to handle these all they wished and pick out any specimen they wanted. All they had to do was write their name on the table under the specimen and then show up at closing time to claim it. Another table contained paper plates with garnets, quartz crystals, topaz, augite and tourmaline crystals for boy and girl collectors. This proved so popular that six quarts of quartz crystals and 500 sand spikes from Davis Dam Site were given away. Some of the boys and girls were 90 years old.

There was a 10 x 6′ map of Southern California from the Tehachapi Mountains to the Mexican border and the Pacific to the Colorado River showing 52 field trip locations. The material from each location was named and pictured on the map. This was painted by Mrs. Lena Hoare.

There was a "new ideas" exhibit in a 30′ booth which contained 15 lapidary outfits—*all of them home made*. This was a very popular exhibit. It showed many new ideas, short cuts, etc. in the lapidary art.

The society built 101 "Glendale" lighted cases; 53 in mahogany and 48 in Douglas fir. In addition they had 41 other cases similar to the Los Angeles Lapidary Society's cases. The odd size cases were used in booths around the outside of the room while the center of the room contained two islands, each with 40 cases. More than 7000 visitors registered but many came who did not register. There were three 8′ tables with three hostesses at each. The size of the exhibit space was 153 x 148′ (22,644 square feet).

The fluorescent display was believed the largest ever exhibited. It was arranged by Dr. Hoare in a 300 square foot dark room with no entangling curtains and filled with the best fluorescent specimens and spheres in the country.

In addition to the home made machinery exhibit there was a 500′ space containing 3 16″ laps, 2 16″ and a 24″ saw and numerous sanders, polishing wheels and a sphere making machine.

The show was dedicated to the memory of E. C. Cline (subscriber No. 16 to the *Journal*) and an orchid corsage was presented to his widow when she arrived to inspect the exhibits. The largest booth was that of Vivienne and Adolph Dosse for which Mrs. Dosse had painted four beautiful pictures each measuring 10 x 13′. There was a beautifully furnished public lounge as a rest area and a Hammond organ played throughout. The decorating committee used truck loads of bamboo, pampas grass, palms, pyracantha, pomegranate fruit and crysanthemums.

There isn't space to dwell on the countless items of interest gathered together by this wonderful society; one of the oldest and largest in the country. We are indeed sorry we had to miss it—but our friends understand we're sure.

★ LIGHT-BLUE ★ AQUA-BLUE ★ PRUSSIAN-BLUE ★ ULTRAMARINE-BLUE ★

ZIRCONS, Facet Quality: Zircons of Mixed Sizes and various Colors, including Light-Blue. 4 Mixed Zircons or Approx. 3 Grams for **$1.00.**

No. 12. AUSTRALIAN OPAL, Gem Quality: Some nice Cabochons can be cut from this Opal. Sold By The Ounce Only. 1 Oz. (8 to 10 pieces per Oz.) for **$2.60.**

AMETHYST, Gem Quality: For Cabochons of Light to Medium Purple Colors. Pieces vary in sizes from Approx. 1/4" to 5/8" Wide and Approx. 3/8" to 1 1/2" Long. 1/2 Lb. of Mixed Sizes & Colors for **$4.00;** 1 Lb. of Mixed Sizes & Colors for **$7.82.**

No. 53. BLUE BERYL, Gem Quality: Beautiful Pastel Prussian Blue Beryl for Cabochons of various sizes. 1/2 Lb. Mixed for **$3.50;** 1 Lb. Mixed for **$6.62.**

HELLS AGATE, Gem Quality: A Carnelian-Red Agate with Fine Swirl and Moss Patterns. 1 Lb. for **$3.00;** 2 Lb. for **$5.85.**

TITANIA (Syn. Rutile) H. 7-7 1/2; Top Quality: Titania in Green-Tint or Yellow-Tint Round Facet Cut Stones that Flash a Myriad of Colors Day or Night. Titania Approx. 1 Carat for **$16.14** each; Approx. 2 Carats for **$32.04** each; Approx. 3 Carats for **$47.95** each; Approx. 4 Carats for **$63.83** each. To Mount in Rings, Etc.

ULTRA-BLUE TITANIA, Top Quality: Not just the Lovely Blue Color but the Red, Green, Blue, Yellow, Etc. Colors that Flash from this Round Facet Cut Titania make it one of the most Beautiful Blue Stones we have seen. Blue Titania Approx. 1 Carat for **$19.86** each; Approx. 2 Carats for **$39.40** each; Approx. 3 Carats for **$58.95** each; Approx. 4 Carats for **$78.56** each. To Mount in Rings, Etc.

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. 85/100 Carat for **$5.93** each; Approx. 1 Carat for **$6.65** each; Approx. 2 Carats for **$12.75** each.

AQUAMARINES, Brazil: No. 1 Grade of Light Aqua-Blue Color. Stones to Mount of Approx. 1 Carat for $4.09 each.

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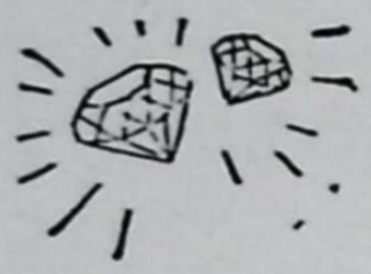
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◆ Personal Facets

By LELANDE QUICK

Just a year ago we published comments on a letter from a woman in Texas who said she was "going on 49 and a nervous wreck." Her husband wanted to buy her a small gem grinding set for Christmas and she wanted advice about it. We gave her good advice (page 400 of the February 1949 *Journal)* but to refresh readers' memories we repeat it here.

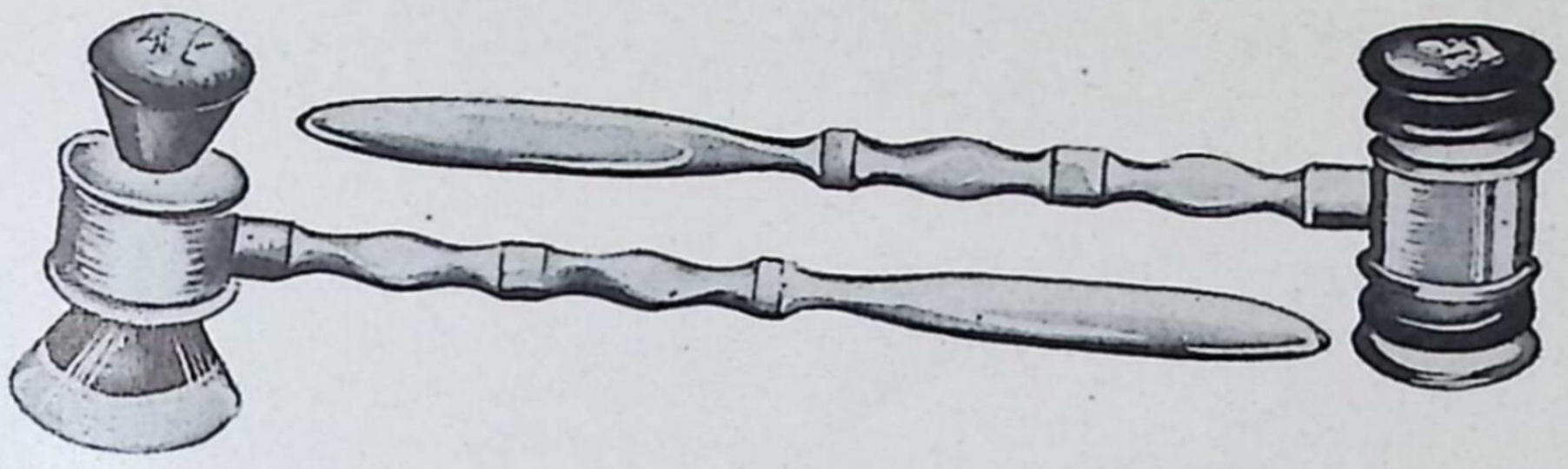
We said "we think it is just smart for the beginner with little time and a fancied interest to purchase one of the many low priced lapidary outfits and feel his way. If he likes to make cabochons, wants to do something else and take on more expensive equipment he can always sell his low priced machine to someone else who has become interested by watching him *but he can't sell some home made junk to anyone.* Therefore we suggest that you send for the little machine, get a book or two on gem cutting, try your hand and feel your way. Indeed there is nothing better in all this world for a 'person going on 49 and a nervous wreck' than a few hours at the grinding wheel, shaping up the minerals of the earth into things of beauty that will last long after the maker and his machinery are dust."

A good friend of ours (Edwin S. Kirkland) read this and pointed out some things about home made equipment in such an entertaining way that we invited him to write an article which we entitled "Who Said It's Junk?" and we published it in August 1949. It was a good article with many good points honestly presented. Another good friend (Eldon E. Soper) asked for permission to offer a rebuttal which we presented in the last issue under the title "I Said It's Junk." Now then, most readers enjoyed reading both sides of the question but some became biased according to whether or not their stuff was home made or "boughten." We have had many comments from both sides but we feel that we have presented both sides by capable writers who know what they're talking about and nothing more will be published for the present on the subject. We repeat what we said many times; that all the present day commercial lapidary equipment has evolved from the backyards, basements and garages of the amateurs who were feeling their way ten years ago. It would be a gross crime to discourage further experimentation by them and we have no intention of doing so. We remind readers that we never did say that *all* home made equipment was junk.

But the picture has changed *so* much in ten years and so many women and non-mechanics have been attracted to our wonderful hobby that we believe the present day commercial equipment is better and cheaper in the long run than almost anything you can build yourself. We remind readers again that parts that are purchased and assembled are not regarded as home made equipment. That is *assembled* equipment.

But the whole thing started with the woman in Texas and it's going to end with the woman in Texas for her latest letter gives the answer in a way that ends any argument for it represents what happens in the *average* case of this kind. We now reveal that the lady from Texas is Sibyl J. Lake of Dumas. When she originally wrote, her husband was slowly dying of a lingering illness and that was why she was a "nervous wreck." He heroically tried to uncover an interest for her to which she could turn in forgetfulness a few hours a day. She took our advice, purchased the "little machine" and found happiness and health. And now she writes—"Received my *Lapidary Journal* and found an article by Eldon Soper entitled 'I Say It's Junk.' Realizing that the letter that started all the fireworks was mine I hasten, nay gallop, to put in my two bits' worth. I *bought* the small outfit, for, nervous wreck that I was over the impending death of my husband I did not know but what I might wreck an expensive outfit. Soon I found I needed a larger saw to slab my large pieces of petrified wood. So my husband asked an expert welder 'friend' of his what it would cost to build me a larger unit. He said 'about $25.00.' After my husband

passed away I engaged the man to build it. He built a huge, awkward outfit that I seldom use, despite his real knowledge of mechanics. The belt is *not* protected; I cannot saw book ends, I must 'slice'; I cannot see what is going on inside this outfit; if something goes wrong I have to learn about it the hard way; there is really no efficient way to clean it. When he presented the bill it staggered me—$78.65! I could have bought a lovely, smooth-running precision machine for that or very little more. I can never sell it—*I doubt if I could give it away*. It takes so long to cut a slice I've wasted precious time and the motor is hot. *But he was proud of it!* I have since seen some more home made junk that only the owner (like a mother) could love."



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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.
THE STORY OF JADE will be loved by book collectors and treasured by connoisseurs of jewels and gems.
THE STORY OF JADE will be one of those books owned by every library in America. Why not put it in *your* library.

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P. O. Box 1228 **LAPIDARY JOURNAL** **Hollywood 28, Calif.**

◆ 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.

Contributed by R. J. Martin, Saratoga, Wyo.

When drilling stones, a little plaster of paris under the stone (where the drill will emerge) will help to attain a clean hole, reducing the danger of splintered edges.

* * * *

A jeweler recently called my attention to a paragraph in a volume of mineral lore. It said that when using chrome oxide for polishing jade mix it with half-and-half water and vinegar. I have tried this a time or two but am not prepared to say yet whether or not it has any merit.

* * * *

If you don't mind a little puff of dust (as the fellow said in the February 1949 *Journal*, when describing how he ground his rocks on a dry wheel), a small wire brush will clean the debris from a drum sander quickly and quite efficiently if applied while the wheel is running.

* * * *

For years I used kerosene and oil, and distillate and oil, as mixtures for a diamond saw lubricant. They caused considerable skin irritation, in addition to offensive smells and other unsatisfactory results. When I last visited the jade cutters of the Lander area I found them using Texaco Flushing Oil, which they recommended highly. I find it entirely satisfactory and preferable to anything I had used previously. Not any old kind of flushing oil (there are many kinds) but *Texaco* Flushing Oil.

* * * *

For drilling a very small hole in a stone I find a small iron brad to be the most satisfactory implement. I use 1x17 (that is, one inch long and No. 17 wire). With a fine-grained wheel, grind the head of the brad to the size of the hole desired. Then, for a quarter-inch or so back from the head, I grind the body of the brad slightly smaller. Using Norbide or diamond, this will put the hole through about as quickly as it could be done with a tube.

One of the best pieces of advice I ever received, and one which I think should be framed as a sort of "Golden Rule" and hung in the shop of every amateur lapidary, was given to me many years ago by Fred S. Young, pioneer lapidary of Portland, Oregon. Mr. Young said, "When you have a stone sanded and it appears to be all ready to polish—just take it back to the fine sander for another five minutes. You'll get a 50% better job." And that sure is the truth!

* * * *

Contributed by R. F. Henley, San Francisco, California

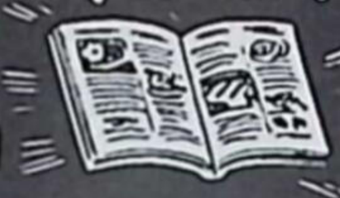
On Page 378 of the December 1949 *Journal* you tell how to get water to the grinding wheels. Here is how I do it:

I take a ten quart galvanized pail, drill a small hole near the bottom and either solder a small wheel valve to it or screw a nipple into the valve. Insert the nipple in the hole and inside the pail put a rubber washer on the nipple and screw a nut to make it water tight. On the outlet of the valve I insert and solder a short section of about two inches of ¼" copper tubing. I use a short length of rubber tubing to slip over the end of the copper and of a sufficient length to reach the splash box of the grinding wheel.

I take another two inch section of copper tubing for the lower end of the rubber tubing and bend it at right angles. I drill a small hole in the top of the splash box and insert the copper tubing directly over the grinding wheel.

I find it a good plan to solder a short spout (like the one on a funnel) to the under side of the splash box to insure the water reaching the wheel. The pail can be hung from overhead or placed on a shelf and it need not be more than a few inches higher than the top of the splash box—just enough to provide gravity flow.

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◆ News of the Societies

NOTE: ALMOST ALL OF THE SOCIETIES NOW HAVE A TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS PARTY AND WE ARE REPORTING NONE OF THEM AS THEY ARE TOO SIMILAR AND ARE NOT PARTICULARLY NEWSWORTHY. WE ARE DEEPLY APPRECIATIVE OF THE MANY GREETING CARDS THE EDITOR RECEIVED. SECRETARIES SHOULD SEE THAT THE *Journal* REGULARLY RECEIVES COPIES OF ANY SOCIETY NOTICES. WE'LL CULL WHAT WE WANT FOR WE READ THEM ALL. IT IS UNNECESSARY FOR A SPECIAL "PUBLICITY" REPORT TO BE WRITTEN;WE SELDOM USE THEM.

* * *

NEWARK LAPIDARY SOC. (N.J.) recently heard Milton Avery (proprietor of Garden State Minerals) in a fine talk on "Polishing Flat Surfaces." In December they heard Edward Skidmore in a talk on "Fluorescent Cabochons, Spheres and Polished Slabs." (This society meets the 3rd Thursday at the Newark Museum. Washington Park West.)

* * *

SACRAMENTO MINERAL SOC. (Calif.) recently heard Arthur Maudens of Burlingame in a fine talk on opals; their cutting and history. A Past President's pin was presented each former president at the Christmas party.

* * *

COLORADO MINERAL SOC. (Denver) held a "quartz" meeting in December at which members were requested to bring their best quartz specimens of all kinds. A technicolor film called 'Crystal Clear," showing developments in synthetic quartz, was shown. Their bulletin tells the story of the farmer plagued with large boulders on his land. He posted a sign PETRIFIED WATER MELONS FREE. In a few months passing rockhounds had cleared the property.

* * *

N. O. T. S. ROCKHOUNDS (China Lake, Calif.) led guests of societies from Santa Barbara, Ventura, San Luis Obispo, Paso Robles, the Earth Science Club of the Los Angeles City College, and the South Bay Lapidary Soc. to the blue chalcedony beds at Lead Pipe Springs on Nov. 11 through the 13th. More than 150 gathered about the camp fire for lectures on geodes and other gem materials of the area. It is reported that the largest opal ever found in the Mojave Desert was brought out on this trip.

* * *

SAN ANTONIO ROCK & LAPIDARY SOC. (Texas) recently heard J. B. Upton, Vice-President of Southwest Talc Co. in a lecture on "Minerals of the Llano Region." Dick Lawson spoke on silversmithing at the January meeting. This group meets the second Monday at V.F.W. Hall, 10th St. & Ave. B.

* * *

OKALHOMA MINERAL & GEM SOC. (Oklahoma City) recently heard Gladys Babson Hannaford give her famed lecture on diamonds. It is reported that Margaret Sprankle, able Editor of the SOONER ROCKOLOGIST, the society's paper, will be married in the spring to another rockhound and will then live in Alaska. She will be succeeded as Editor by Domer L. Howard.

WISCONSIN GEOLOGICAL SOC. (Milwaukee) recently heard Prof. Frank Fleener, co-author of QUARTZ FAMILY MINERALS in a talk on "Turquoise." The society's exhibit at the Milwaukee Hobby Show created wide interest.

* * *

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY MINERAL & GEM SOC. (North Hollywood, Calif.) now has $653 in a special fund for the eventual acquisition of their own quarters. Glen C. Craig is the new president. Retiring president Harrison Stamp was presented with a gold wrist watch by the society in apreciation of his two years' hard work in bringing this club to the fore as one of the most important societies in America. They meet at the Women's Club, 15632 Parthenia St., Sepulveda, on the second Thursday.

* * *

HOLLYWOOD LAPIDARY SOC. (Calif.) gave about 75 prizes, donated by members, to the more than 2500 persons who attended their fine second annual gem show. Jack Streeter, President of the California and American Federations of Mineralogical Societies recently gave a talk on the benefits of Federation membership.

* * *

TEXAS MINERAL SOC. (Dallas) recently heard a talk by A. R. Fife on "Western Mineral Localities."

* * *

GEM & LAPIDARY SOCIETY OF NEW YORK was scheduled to elect its first officers on January 9th. Mr. Hammoneau, of the East Coast Mineral Corp., has donated a large room in the Hotel Endicott to be used as official quarters. A lapidary shop will soon be set up there and be open to members 10 hours a day and 7 days a week. *That's New York for you!!!*

* * *

EL PASO MINERAL & GEM SOC. (Texas) held an interesting and fun provoking meeting recently by asking all members to attend in field trip clothing. Anyone attending in "parlor clothes" was fined. Several ladies attended in levis—with *corsages* The society is agog over plans for next year's Rocky Mountain Federation meeting at El Paso at which they will be hosts. Their official paper, the VOICE, is one of the most interesting crossing the Editor's desk.

* * *

CALAVERAS GEM & MINERAL SOC. (Angel's Camp, Calif.) is reported to have collected more than $900 at a recent meeting toward the erection of their own club building. *Big societies in the big cities take notice!!*

* * *

FEATHER RIVER GEM & MINERAL SOC. (Oroville, Calif.) continues to present in their FEATHER RIVER REFLECTIONS more news than any society paper. "Skipper" Rankin carries on an extensive corespondence and exchange and knows more about the goings on and personalities of the clubs in America than any officer of the Federations. They should allow her talent to expand. "Red" (her man) is

the President of the club which meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at Dunstone Hall, Wyandotte. We expect to carry a short article by "Skipper" in the next issue.

* * *

GLENDALE LAPIDARY & GEM SOC. (Calif.) heard Theodore Ittner (of THEODORE'S) at a recent meeting. He gave a lecture and demonstration of the lost wax method of silver casting. (See his article on the subject on Page 80 of the June 1948 *Journal.)*

* * *

POMONA VALLEY MINERAL CLUB (Calif.) heard Mrs. A. F. Dosse in a talk on mineral localities of the west at its Dec. meeting. The talk accompanied a showing of pictures of the locations made by Mrs. Dosse.

* * *

TUCSON GEM & MINERAL SOC. (Ariz.) presented fine mineral specimens to their retiring officers at their Dec. meeting at which they elected Mrs. A. H. Murchison as president. Dr. Frederick H. Pough, Curator of Mineralogy and Physical Geology at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, addressed the group on his recent western visit by giving an interesting and informative illustrated talk on the famous gems in the Morgan collection, of which he is custodian. S. F. Turner, the society's first president, recently gave a talk on Arizona gems. This society meets in room 106 of the Arizona State Museum on the first and third Tuesdays.

* * *

MINNESOTA MINERAL CLUB (Minneapolis) recently heard Earl Gothier of the Minnesota Mining Co. in a talk on "Coated Abrasives and Abrasive Minerals."

* * *

MINERAL & GEM SOC. OF CASTRO VALLEY (Hayward, Calif.) recently heard E. R. Lamberson of the East Bay Mineral Soc. in a talk on stone polishing and his experiences in rock hunting. The society presented a set of stainless steel tableware to the Community Center in appreciation of the privilege of meeting there.

* * *

TACOMA AGATE CLUB. (Wash.) has a very worthwhile program. It makes a "bedside display" of gems and makes visits twice a month to the veterans at Madigan Hospital. These visits have been productive of high happiness among the ailing men. *Have you a veterans' hospital in your locality?* This club now has 95 members.

* * *

WASATCH GEM SOC. (Salt Lake City, Utah) recently heard Wm. C. McConahay, local jeweler, in a talk on cameos. They held their annual gem show on Dec. 2nd at which time they elected Ed Dowse as President.

* * *

SEQUOIA MINERAL SOC. (Fresno, Calif.) is considering adding the word "gem" to their title. We hope they do. A recent program was a good idea for other societies to adopt. Each member was requested to bring what he regarded as the most unusual specimen in his collection and tell *why* he thought it was so. The Editor will address the society on February 4th at which time the new officers will be installed.

MAY I SHOW YOU

my

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DONA ANA COUNTY ROCKHOUND CLUB (N.M.) has a permanent display in the Branigan Library in Las Cruces. The display is changed at interals to maintain the interest of the public.

* * *

GEM & MINERAL SOC. OF SAN MATEO CO. (Calif.) recently heard G. R. McClanahan of Sacramento in a lecture on the elements of minerals and rocks important to a proper understanding of gems. In Dec. Frank E. Esterling, a lapidary who cut many gems in the Morgan collection, described his experiences of 60 years in the business.

* * *

CLARK COUNTY GEM COLLECTORS (Las Vegas, Nev.) has elected Bill Brown as president. The December field trip was made to Keyhole Canyon for Indian artifacts.

* * *

CLEVELAND LAPIDARY SOC. gave a lapidary demonstration at their Nov. meeting to show how a grinding and polishing outfit could be assembled for less than $10.00. They then proceeded to have members who had never cut a cabochon do so on the assembled outfit. The same idea for jewelry was worked out at the Dec. meeting with jewelry making tools. The society had their annual gem display in the Library from Dec. 17th through Jan. 14th. On Nov. 20th the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* ran an illustrated article in color on the work of the society in their magazine section. It was the best thing of its kind we have ever seen.

* * *

SAN DIEGO MINERAL & GEM SOC. heard Dr. Frederick H. Pough of the American Museum of Natural History in New York give his famed film on the Paricutin volcano at its Dec. meeting. Entitled VOLCANO IN ACTION the film was also shown in Los Angeles where the public showing was sponsored by the Editor and Edward Swoboda, local gem dealer.

* * *

CHICAGO ROCKS & MINERAL SOC. heard John Mihelcic of Detroit in Jan. in a lecture on "Michigan Collecting And Collectors." He is Secretary of the Midwest Federation. Members were asked to bring their Michigan specimens to show their guest.

* * *

MICHIGAN LAPIDARY SOC., organized by the Editor in Oct., was to elect their first officers and adopt their constitution at a meeting to be held at Cranbrook Institute on Jan. 12th. 70 members had joined at last report.

* * *

LOS ANGELES LAPIDARY SOC. will hold its Tenth Anniversary meeting on Feb. 4th. At this time gavels set with floating opals will be presented to each of the Past Presidents as he tells of highlights and reminisces of his term in office. Pictures of this event and a history of this pioneer society, which has "mothered" seven others, will appear in our next issue. Herbert Monlux, member, recently gave a thorough exposition of cabochon shaping to a record attendance and the Jan. meeting was a "ladies night" at which five women members gave talks on phases of the lapidary and jewelcraft arts.

BRAWLEY GEM & MINERAL SOC. (Calif.) held their first rock and gem display on Dec. 5. The club took in as honorary members the members of the new junior rock club recently formed at the local High School.

* * *

GEORGIA MINERAL SOC. will celebrate its fifteenth aniversary this year. The club now numbers almost 300 members.

* * *

◆ New Societies

ILLINOIS CLUB—See item on Page 458.

WHITTIER GEM & MINERAL SOC. (Calif.) was organized on Dec. 1st at the Whititier Union High School where meetings will be held on the first and third Tuesday evenings. Robert Myers was elected President. The society was organized by Professor of Geology, Darold J. Henry, of Mt. San Antonio College. Mr. Henry is the author of *California Gem Trails.*

* * *

COMPTON GEM & MINERAL CLUB with 80 members was to elect permanent officers at a January meeting. The Editor addressed the group on Dec. 13th on THE SECOND STONE AGE.

* * *

ST. HELENS GEM & MINERAL SOC. (Ore.) may be the new name of a group being organized there by A. R. Welch, Box 1270. Interested persons should communicate with him.

Have You Just Joined a Society?
Are You a Rockhound?
If so you need
these books
GEM CUTTING
by J. Daniel Willems $3.50
THE ART OF GEM CUTTING
by Dake & Pearl $2.00
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San Diego Lapidary Holds Rockfest



On November 20, 1949, the San Diego Lapidary Society had its second anniversary potluck dinner party in the patio of Lee and Ada Harrison at La Mesa with 72 members and guests present. Besides celebrating its birthday, the society had a hilarious rock rummage sale to raise money for their annual Christmas party. Over a hundred dollars was raised from gems donated by various members which included cabochons, faceted gems, finished jewelry and equipment.

The Christmas dinner party was a gala affair with the tables decorated with red berries, greenery and candles.

The following menu was served:

ROSE BUD AGATE COCKTAIL
JASPER SALAD
ROAST TURKEY BUZZARD WITH SARDONYX DRESSING AND ALLUVIAL FAN GRAVY
HOWLITE POTATOES, PERIDOT PEAS, GEODE BISCUITS
ONYX PUMPKIN PIE, CONGLOMERATE MINCE PIE
DISTILLATE COFFEE

The entire meal was prepared and served to 94 members and guests by the officers and directors of the society. We present a picture above of the officers. Front row. Left to right. Wm. Granzow, Treasurer; Alice Martin, Historian; Ada Harrison, Secretary; Wm. Jack, Program. Back row. Left to right. C. A. Dietrich, President; R. Miller, Past President; L. Harrison, Membership.



OLD PUBLISHER CHANGES NAME

On October 1, 1949, The Manual Arts Press, an "old friend" among book publishers in the field of industrial education, changed its corporate title to CHAS. A. BENNETT Co., Inc. The new name was adopted as a "fiftieth anniversary memorial" to its founder, the late Charles A. Bennett. The change had long been contemplated because the firm had never had a "press" and the term "manual arts" is no longer used as frequently as in the early days of the industrial and hobby education movement.

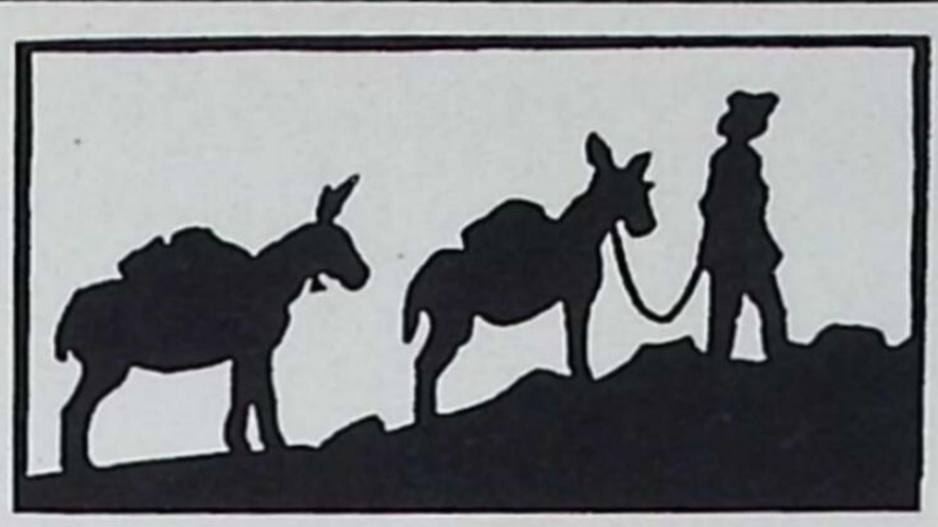
The Chas. A. Bennett Co. is now a book company, exclusively, but it was founded October 1, 1899 as the publishers of the pioneering magazine in the field, *Manual Training Magazine*. This periodical was in continuous publication until 1939. At that time Bennett's failing health prompted him to retire it. Meanwhile its name had been changed to *Industrial Education Magazine*.

Bennett will be remembered also as head of the department of industrial education at Bradley University—or Bradley Polytechnic Institute, as it was formerly known. In 1919 he resigned from the Bradley faculty to give his full time to magazine and book editing at The Manual Arts Press. Such a move was the farthest thing from his mind when he launched the magazine twenty years earlier.

However, the success of a famous woodworking textbook, ESSENTIALS OF WOODWORKING, by Ira S. Griffith, led to the production of other books, and by 1919 the business became too large to manage as a mere sideline.

Among authors who followed Griffith in writing for the magazine and preparing book manuscripts which are now standard works in industrial education are such well-known teacher trainers as the late R. W. Selvidge, Emanuel E. Ericson, Verne C. Fryklund, John F. Friese, and Louis V. Newkirk. The Bennett Co. also inherits more than one hundred titles in the student text classification. Bennett's own Histories of Manual and Industrial Education, published by the firm, are the outstanding works on the subject.

This firm is the publisher of *Gem Cutting* by Willems ($3.50) and *Metalcraft and Jewelry* by Emil F. Kronquist ($3.00); obtainable from the *Journal*.



That's Me on the Right

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For your business and pleasant contacts in 1949.

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JAMES J. KEHOE

BIG FORK MONTANA

New Earth Science Club for Northeastern Illinois

Friday evening, November 25, thirty enthusiastic people met at the home of Dr. I. G. Spiesman of Downers Grove, Illinois, to organize an earth science club for the benefit of those living in the populous suburban area between Chicago and Aurora, north of Joliet. Mr. William H. Allaway acted as temporary chairman. Several committees were formed, and the balance of the evening was spent in listening to a lecture by Stevens T. Norvell on "Geological Features of the West." It was illustrated with eighty kodachrome slides.

No name was selected for the club. That was to be done at a meeting on January 6th.

An invitation is extended to everyone interested in minerals, fossils, geologic formations, ancient man, gems or silver smithing. For late information call Stevens T. Norvell on phone, Western Spring 2831 (Chicago phone, Lawndale 1-5000, extension 2881) or Mr. William H. Allaway on phone, Downers Grove 129-J.

* * *

Ideas Wanted for a National Emblem

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, upon the suggestion of the Midwest Federation, is sponsoring a contest to select the most appropriate design for an insignia for members of all the societies. This may be used as a pin, lapel button, car sticker, etc., in order that society members may recognize members of their own peculiar breed while on collecting trips.

Prof. Richard Pearl of Colorado University at Colorado Springs, Colo., has been appointed to manage the contest. A recent letter from him indicates the mechanics and rules of the contest have as yet not been clearly defined. However, time permitting, the selection of the most appropriate insignia will be made so that the buttons, etc., can be placed on sale at the convention in Milwaukee in June. On the other hand the final judging may be made at the convention.

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New Gold Bonanza Reported Found In Death Valley

(Los Angeles Times)

Somewhere in or near Death Valley J. J. McLaughlin of Los Angeles is thought to be working a rich gold mine and selling numerous high-grade natural gold specimens to jewelers, gem shops and collectors. The ore is a white quartz with specimens containing seams of gold a quarter-inch wide and nuggets said to be as large as beans. Mono County and Nevada mining men estimate that McLaughlin may have sold specimens to the amount of $20,000 or $25,000 within the last two years at gem and curio shops along the highway leading into Los Angeles from Death Valley.

He is said to have shown one person a 20-pound chunk of quartz banded with gold. Desert miners and prospectors surmise that McLaughlin's mine is somewhere in the north end of Death Valley, but many attempts to locate it have failed. It is reported in Bishop that he visits the property at intervals, always carefully guarding his trail, and comes out with a load of gold specimens.

* * *

Two New Color Movies Available

The California Division of Mines Library has recently added two 16 m.m. color films to its collection. "Prospecting for Petroleum," a 23-minute motion-picture portrayal of the search for oil, and "Birth of an Oil Field," 30 minutes in length, were acquired through the courtesy of the Shell Oil Company, Inc. These two films, both with sound, are available for loan or showing to mineral and gem societies. Two other 16 m.m. sound films, also in color, are available: "Ghost Towns," the story of the gold-rush days, and "California and Its Natural Resources." Requests should be addressed to Calif. Div. of Mines, San Francisco.

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

SHIPLEY'S MINERAL HOUSE

Gem Village Bayfield, Colorado

Gems From The Mail Bag

Aboard Constellation Flight 96. The latest edition of the *Journal* came just as I was leaving and I hurriedly tucked it into my brief case. Boy, it is a dinger! Gets better all the time No foolin' I hope the *Journal* never degenerates into a publication filled with ultra-scientific papers, graphs, etc. Keep it just as it is. I venture to say not one in a thousand of your subscribers knows or gives a hang about the refractive indices of the various gem stones. There are other publications to which they may turn if they have use for it. Ralph E. Mueller, M.D., Kansas City, Mo. (Ed. note: Quite a large number of our subscribers know far more about refraction than the Editor himself and we have printed this information for those who wish to refer to it. We don't wish to get too scientific and yet we have no desire to "talk down" to our readers. We place no stock in army records claiming that the average intelligence of the American male is that of a 12 year old boy. Our reader average is far higher, we believe, and yet we don't edit to the point where it takes a degree of Certified Gemologist to understand what we print.)

* * * * *

I am delighted with your views and numerous references to your trip and the enthusiasm which you have created while you went from place to place. Also it is gratifying to me to see the new copy of the *Journal* (the Birthstone Number) which is considerably larger than ever before and contains much carefully compiled information which can be regarded as completely dependable and authentic. Too much has been written in the past by eager-beaver authors who now and then went over to the stages of foggy notions. Authors who know what they are talking about and have the ability of expressing it in readable language, like nearly all of those in your recent issue, are certainly to be commended for their efforts. J. Daniel Willems, M.D., Chicago. Author of *Gem Cutting*.

* * * * *

We are going places with the *Lapidary Journal*. I say "we" because neither the *Journal* or the rockhounds could well get along without each other.I know the rockhound wouldn't do so well. We love it. E. W. Handy, Tomball, Texas.

* * * * *

My compliments to you for your wonderful accomplishments during 1949. You have shown great ability, sincerity and good will to all. I also agree with Mr. Soper (*I Said It's Junk*) in 99 out of every 100 cases. *The Story Of Jade* is wonderful. Everyone interested in jade should have a copy. H. B. Davies Smith, Summerland, Calif.

FIRE SALE

Due to a fire on our premises on Dec. 22nd, causing $4,000 damages, we are forced to sell a large amount of material to make room for repairs.

We offer any material from page 373 in the Dec. issue (our ad) at 25% discount. You order $5.00 in material but send $3.75; jadeite excepted.

Also see page 25 of the new book "THE STORY OF JADE." There it describes our Yunnan Province, China, feathery, peacock green jadeite. Sold 9 sq. in, from last ad. Have 7 more I will let go. It's *really rare*.

Also page 24 lists blue jadeite as rarest of all colors of jadeite. Only a collector's item. You can have a few small pieces of either jadeites also.

We hope to have many colors of jadeite mentioned in the book available this year.

Also send $1.50 for nice piece of opal. Some finished jadeite stones for $3.00, $5.00, $7.50, $10.00

Also lovely Mexican agate $2.00 lb. Jades $3.00 to $7.00 lb. This is your chance to get apple green jade at our 25% discount.

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It's that new and unusual agate from Colorado that closely resembles dainty and multi-colored rosebuds and blooms under glass. "IN A CABOCHON IT'S THE COLOR THAT COUNTS."

Some pieces not only closely resemble flowers, buds and bouquets, but leaves and stems with mossy and plumy inclusions.

A $1.00 bill will bring you a sample and "YOU BE THE JUDGE."

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Selected Flowering Rose Agate, rough	$2.00 per lb.
Slabbed per square inch	.50
Turquoise, fine blue	1.20 per oz.

For quantity prices on rough agate, we refer you to the December number of the *Lapidary Journal*.

We guarantee these materials to please.

Terms: Include postage for rough gemstones. Cash with order.

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¾" ..... .25 each — 5 for 1.00
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PERIDOT—Ariz. small, but good faceting material. 8 grams or more in box..$1.00

GARNET—Ariz. small, but good faceting material. 13 grams or more in box..$1.00

TOURMALINE—Green, pink, $1.50 per gram

DESK PEN with holder.....$3.50

DESK PENCIL with holder.....$2.50

PEN & PENCIL—Put both on slab base for nice set. The pair.....$5.50

Federal Excise tax included on stone prices above
Calif. Residents add 3% State Sales Tax
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Chatsworth, California

◆ Beginners Page

On the "Personal Facets" page in the June 1949 issue we wrote about Nellie Glover and said we would reprint our "Nellie Glover letter," which appeared in *Desert Magazine* in April 1946, if enough people requested it. The many hundreds of reprints of the letter we have sent out have become exhausted and since we continue to get requests we reprint the letter here for we think it contains the most concise information and advice it is possible to give the beginner in a few paragraphs.

"For months my mail has been heavy. I answer some inquiries direct when they repeat information previously given in these pages. But I always spend more time on letters to folks who are where I was a few years ago when I didn't know my head from an agate. Typical of these exchanges of correspondence is the following letter from Nellie Glover, of Tracy, California, who can be pardoned for thinking she can polish rocks with a brush. If you cut rocks all you will gain by reading further is the memory of how little you knew yourself about gem cutting at one time.

"Mrs. Glover writes, 'I would like to get some sort of little outfit to polish stones. I have a lot of agates and other pretty stones that I have been saving through the years. Now my family is raised and I have time to play and wondered if you would have some advice about what I should get. I have a small electric motor with a brush for garage work which I could use. I have never done any stone polishing or seen it done and I don't want to spend too much on it but just polish for my own pleasure. Please tell me what I need and where to get it.'

"I didn't offer Mrs. Glover the facetious replies I got when I asked others the same questions seven years ago. These replies were usually built around the idea that you don't have to be crazy to polish rocks—but it helps. Here is my letter which can just as well serve as an open letter to all people "queer" enough to pick up and hoard pretty rocks with no definite purpose in mind.

"Dear Nellie Glover:

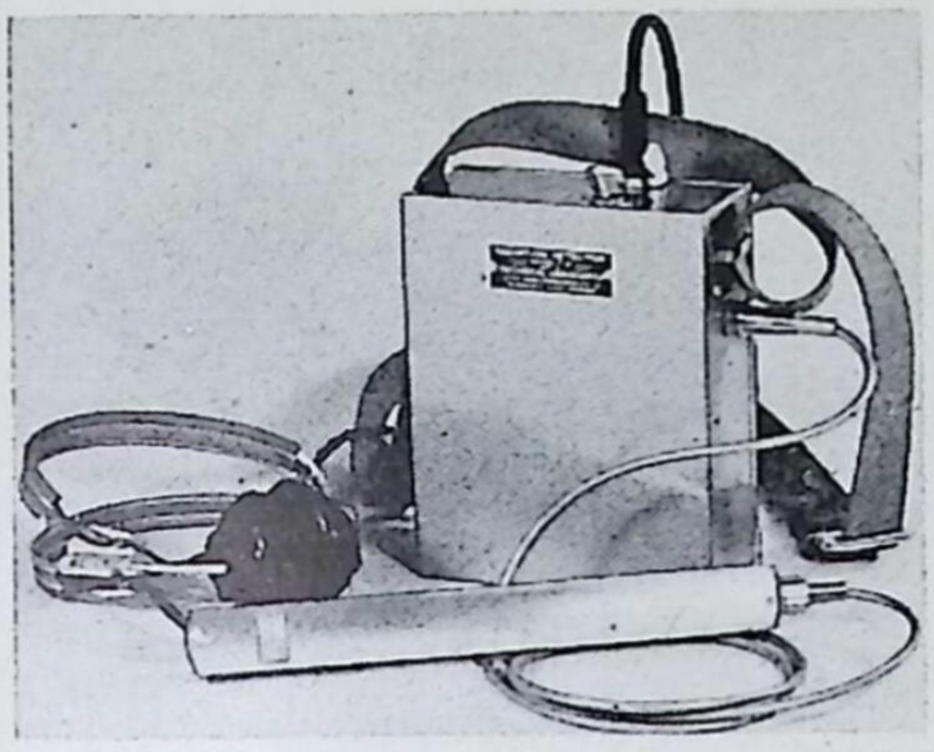
"Your 'electric motor with a brush for garage work' will be of no value to you in polishing 'the pretty stones you have been saving through the years.' The motor is a start toward a lapidary shop but the only use for the brush is to clean up the shop itself.

"You see, Mrs. Glover, rocks are not polished as you would shine a pair of shoes, which have to be polished often because the shine disappears. A polished rock keeps its shine forever if some harder substance doesn't come along to mar the polished surface. Your window panes and the diamond in your ring were polished very similarly but you can mar the polish on your window panes by scratching it with your diamond. That is because the diamond is harder than the glass. You can cut bread with a knife but you can't cut a rock with it because the rock is harder than the steel edge. Therefore a rock can only be polished by an agent that is harder than the rock itself. An agate, rated about 7 in hardness, can be polished by carborundum, which is rated higher and is much harder. The agate is ground by having the undesirable portion worn away by the abrasive action of the carborundum until you have the agate in the shape you desire it.

"This grinding is usually done by a wheel made of carborundum which is kept wet to hold down the heat generated by the friction. The wheel is mounted on an arbor and driven by a pulley from an electric motor. After you have 'roughed' out the agate to the desired shape you have to polish it by wearing away the rough edges and the scratches you can see in the surface. You finally achieve a stone that becomes a gem which increases in polish as more and more scratches are worn away by using wheels covered with cloth to which fine grits of carborundum have been glued and additional wheels of felt or leather to which you apply finer wet abrasive agents. After long and arduous effort something happens to the surface of the gem that few men who are not scientists really understand. The molecules of the mineral (all stones are minerals) on the surface being abrased seem to melt and flow together just as if they all split at once (molecules are composed of atoms, you see) and the surface takes on a mirror-finish polish free from scratches. It stays that way forever if

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"Until recently lapidary equipment was always homemade but now you can buy it from advertisers in these pages about as cheaply as you can make it. You should buy some books and read about gem cutting before you spend money for equipment. Get the *Art of Gem Cutting* by Dake ($2.00) and *Jewelry, Gem Cutting & Metalcraft* by Baxter ($3.00) from our book department. If you are still interested, read magazines about minerals and gem cutting and observe the many gem and equipment advertisements in them. These magazines are *The Mineralogist* at Portland, Oregon and *Rocks & Minerals* at Peekskill, N.Y. A postal request to the publishers will bring you a free sample copy, I am sure. (The *Journal* was subsequently established.)

"Proceed with this advice, Mrs. Glover, and learn to create finished gems for your happiness. God made the rocks but you can create gems that shall be deathless and exist somewhere to be enjoyed long after you become as the dust you grind from the rocks. So little of the paintings being painted today, the music and poetry being written, will exist at all 5000 years from now and all the 'fancy work' now in existence will long have mouldered. The gems, the good ones, still will be in someone's loved possession if people exist at all in that long era down the years.

"I feel infinitely sorry for the people (there are so many) who never once in their life have any desire to create something of joy themselves. But for those who do there is nothing that can give more wholesome satisfaction than to convert a

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rough stone of the field or desert into a shining, sparkling, shapely gem of beauty in the palm of one's hand. This has brought me much happiness and I hope you will find happiness in it too."

To learn about what happened to Nellie Glover the reader is referred to Page 134 in the June 1949 issue of the *Lapidary Journal.*

At the Sacramento convention in June last year Mrs. Quick brought to us a tall, spare and gentle lady and presented her with a "you'll never guess who this is." It was Nellie Glover and we had a delightful chat which promoted the thought that there are satisfactions in this business far beyond any profit motive. Nellie operates a fine motel in Tracy, Calif.. Stop and visit her as you pass.

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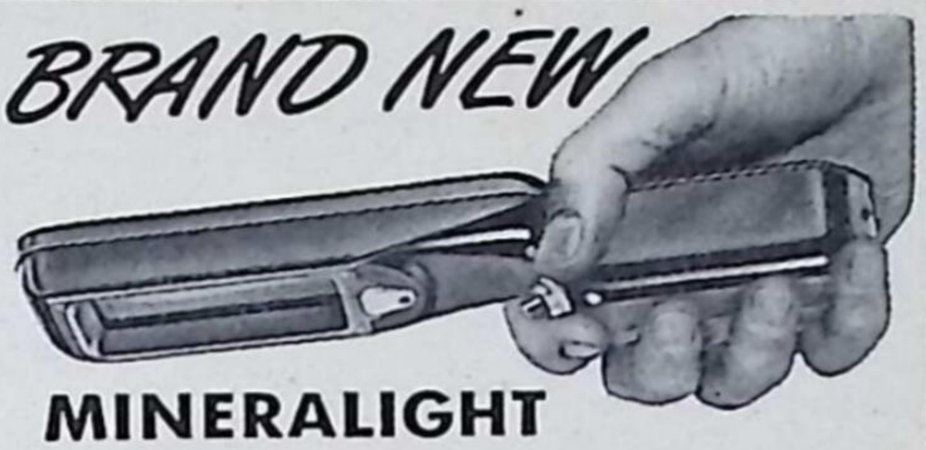
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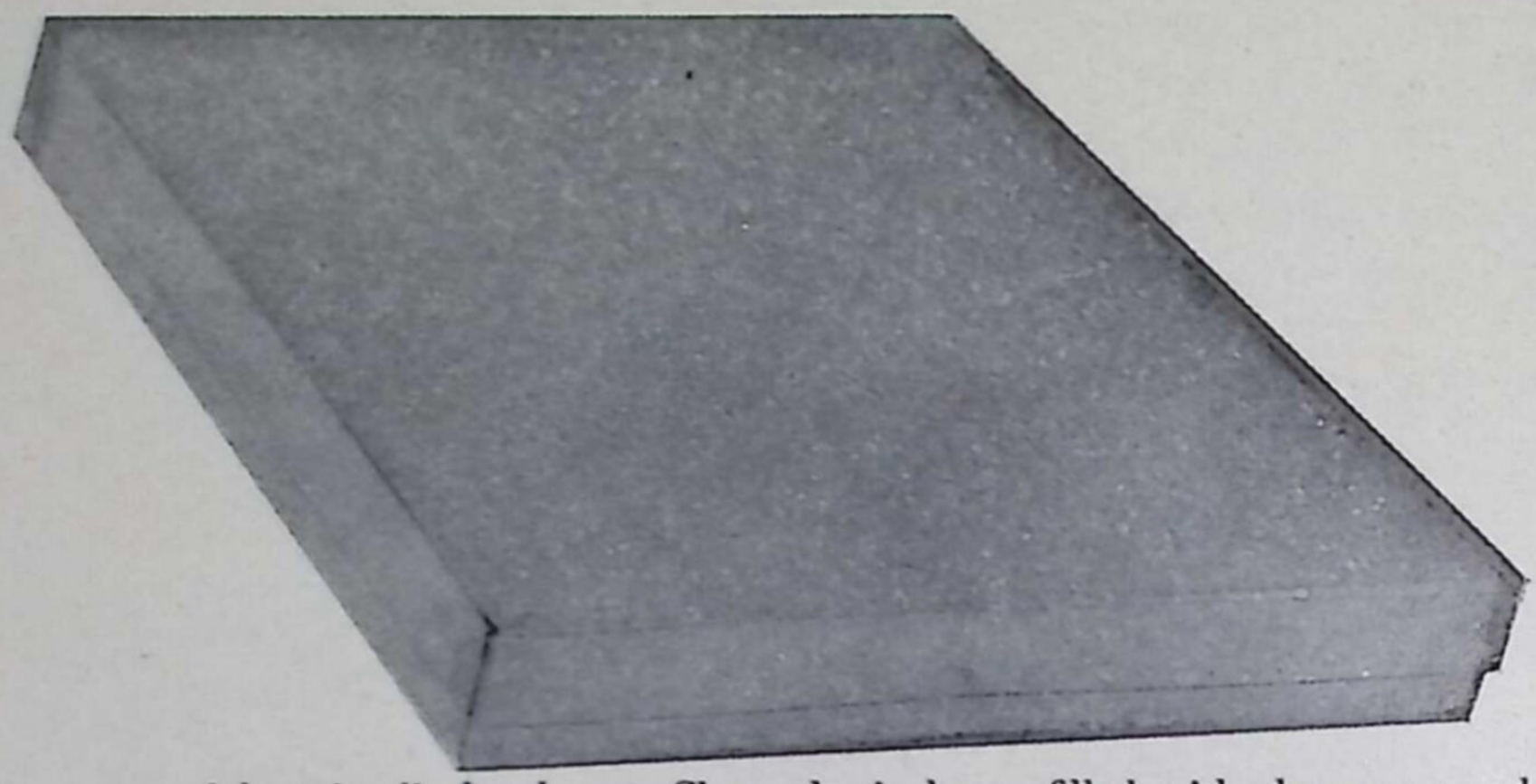
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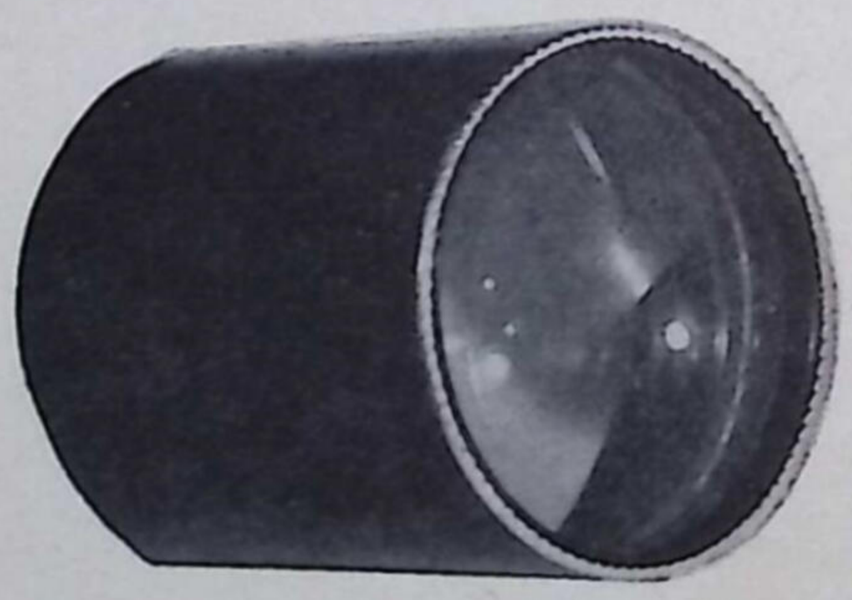


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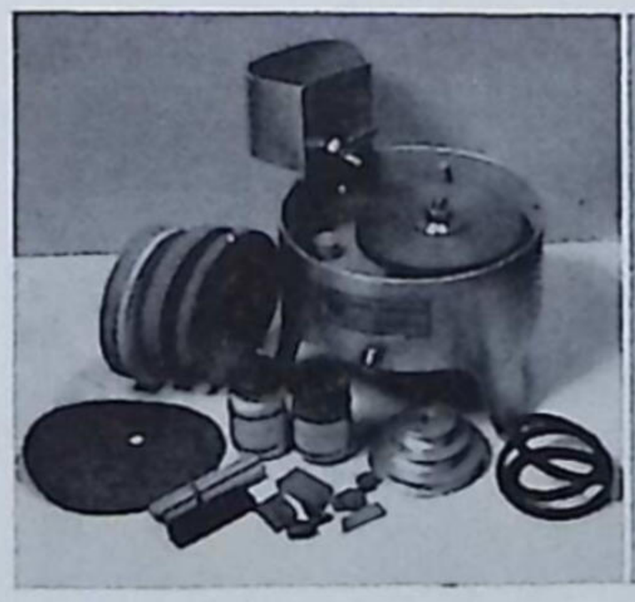
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