

**the
New Mexico**

Facetor

September/October 2004



The Official Newsletter of the New Mexico Faceters Guild

NMFG

Show and Tell



Two beautiful emerald cut matched beautiful blue topaz stones (center) and two exquisite deep blue tourmalines by **Nancy Attaway** (Pear and emerald cut).

Several examples of designs made by **Steve Attaway**. The top and right designs are still in the plastic milled shaped, the left and bottom designs are already cast in gold.



Dylan Houtman cut all the wonderful stones shown on the title page. Here is a close-up of 3 Mexican Fire Opals and a danburite. All triangular shapes are cut in his Montringle design.

A 12mm Portuguese cut rutilated quartz by **Carsten Brandt**.



The New Mexico Faceters Guild

Guild Officers 2004-2005

President: Dylan Houtman
Vice President/Programs: Ernie Hawes
Secretary/Treasurer: Bill and Ina Swantner
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Guild Mineralogist: Paul Hlava
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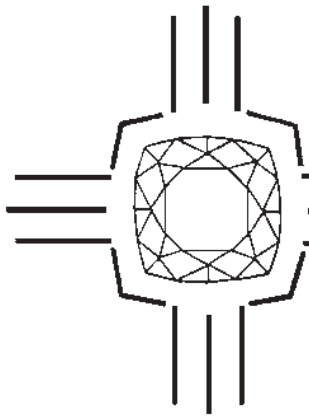
Purpose of the Guild: The purpose of the New Mexico Faceters Guild is to bring together persons who are interested in faceting or faceted stones. We promote the art and science of faceting and provide a means of education and improvement in faceting skills. Finally, we provide a means of communication between those persons involved in or interested in faceting as a hobby.

Guild Membership: Dues are \$20.00 per calendar year (January through December) for newsletter issues sent by e-mail. Hard copies of newsletter issues sent by US mail are \$30. Please see the membership application/renewal form on the last page of the newsletter.

Meetings: The Guild meets now on the second Monday of odd numbered months at 7:00 p.m. at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History, 1801 Mountain Road N.W., Albuquerque, NM. Workshops are generally held in even-numbered months. Date, time, and place are given in newsletter. Also, any change in guild meeting times or dates will be listed in the newsletter.

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The next meeting of the New Mexico Faceters Guild will be November 8, 2004.



The New Mexico Facetor

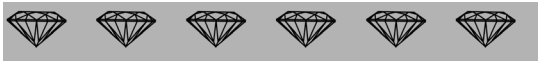
Volume 24, No. 5, September/October, 2004



NMFG President Dylan Houtman

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New Mexico Faceters Guild Official Website

We invite everyone to visit our website at:
www.attawaygems.com/NMFG for interesting and informative articles on gemstones and faceting techniques.

The Prez Sez:

by Dylan Houtman

Hello,

another year has come and gone, and this is my sixth little prez sez ditty. The guild's monetary situation has remained stable but the rent for the room at the museum has doubled to \$60.00 for the next year. This is still an excellent value and I don't think it will break our bank; hopefully this price will remain the same for a few years.

Something I should have brought up at the last guild meeting: setting up a raffle or door-prize to raise some money and encourage more people to come through the doors at the **AGATE** and **Treasures of The Earth** shows. I have a couple of stones that I have cut and am more than willing to donate to this endeavor. We would need a simple display and someone to print up some tickets. If anyone has suggestions, feel free to e-mail me or call me any time.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the workshop before the Christmas party; I hope all who cut will bring their machines.

Happy Faceting,

Dylan.



Minutes from the NMFG Meeting

September 13, 2004

by *Nancy Attaway*

Tonight's meeting began at 7:00pm in the Lodestar Auditorium upstairs in the New Mexico Museum of Natural History. Guild member **Marc Price** was the featured speaker. Marc is a Professor of physics and astronomy and teaches at the University of New Mexico. The New Mexico Faceters Guild members were his guests at this particular lecture, "Formation of the Solar System," after which Guild members returned to the meeting room downstairs for refreshments before the meeting. This night, we did things backwards: the speaker first, then refreshments, and finally the meeting with our show and tell.

President **Dylan Houtman** called the meeting to order after the speaker's talk and welcomed all members and guests.

Newsletter Editor **Carsten Brandt** said that the July/August 2004 issue of *The New Mexico Faceter* was going to be late in coming due to his intense work schedule. Ernie Hawes remarked that his column was late in getting to Carsten. Nancy Attaway apologized for not getting her faceting designs to Ernie on time, due to her busy schedule. We are sorry for the delay.

Old Business:

Ernie Hawes remarked that the well-attended Guild Workshop held at the home of **Steve and Nancy Attaway** on August 21 was a huge success. A Guild Workshop was planned for sometime in October, the date to be announced.

Marc and Elaine Price were among the twenty-eight people who attended the **Gem Fest** hosted in Salida, Colorado by John and Donna Rhoads of D & J Rare Gems, Ltd. during August 11 to 16.

Activities included field trips to collect gem rough, gemstone faceting demonstrations, pearl stringing instruction, slide show presentations and seminars, perusing rough and cut gems for sale, and visiting the Continental Gem and Mineral Show in nearby Buena Vista. Salida lies in the beautiful San Luis Valley in south-central Colorado that is surrounded by many of the state's "Fourteeners", mountain peaks that rise above 14,000 feet in altitude.

Carsten and Margaret Brandt were among the twelve people who attended the Albuquerque Gem and Mineral Club's field trip to Rabb Canyon on August 28 to collect moonstone in the southwestern part of New Mexico. Several of them camped at the Forest Service's Iron Creek Campground, meeting additional folks the next morning before the hike. The 2.5 mile hike into Rabb Canyon is fairly strenuous for the first half mile stretch, followed by a more gentle stretch for the remaining two miles. The hike was along mountain creeks, and through gorgeous thick ponderosa, pinon, and juniper forest. A wide variety of wildflowers were still in bloom. After arriving at the old corral at the heart of the Rabb Park area, everyone began searching in the creek for moonstones. Carsten and Margaret found several gemmy pieces with blue schiller.

New Business:

Nancy Attaway and Paul Hlava announced that the eleventh annual **AGATE Show** was scheduled for November 20 and 21 at the LeBaron Courtyard Hotel Conference Center on 2120 Menaul Blvd. NE in Albuquerque. Several Guild members, past and present, will participate as dealers in this upscale gem and jewelry show. Nancy brought several postcard invitations for Guild members to have. AGATE stands for Albuquerque Gem Artisans Trade Expo. A core group from Albuquerque runs the operation, and several other dealers from Albuquerque are regulars at the show. AGATE also has several guest artisans in the show from Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Los Alamos, Salida, Colorado and Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Ernie Hawes was featured in the October 2004 issue of *Lapidary Journal* with his faceting design, "The Whirligig". Nancy Attaway is scheduled to be featured in the December 2004 issue of *Lapidary Journal* with her design, "Cushion Triangle for Liddicoatite". Congratulations! Both Ernie and Nancy have been regulars in *Lapidary Journal* these last few years with their original faceting designs. Ernie Hawes is certainly one of the busiest designers of faceting diagrams in the country.

Refreshments:

Steve and Linda Vayna, Dylan Houtman, Carsten and Margaret Brandt, and Nancy Attaway all brought yummy refreshments to the September meeting, plus gourmet coffee. Thank you all very much. **Linda Vayna** and **Nancy Attaway** volunteered to bring refreshments to the meeting in November.

Show and Tell:

The Show and Tell case was filled tonight with glittering gemstones, beautiful items of jewelry, and interesting gem rough specimens. **Steve Attaway** served as the Moderator.

Carsten Brandt displayed two stones that he cut. He showed a small lovely danburite that he cut in Ernie Hawes' "EZ Square Cushion" cut, and he showed a large round rutilated quartz that he cut in the "Portuguese Cut", a sixteen-sided round. Faceters should at least try the "Portuguese Cut" once, preferably with a sizeable piece of rough. Carsten also displayed the three nice Rabb Canyon moonstones that he found on the field trip.

Dylan Houtman displayed thirty-one stones that he cut. Dylan is a prolific faceter, and it is tough to keep up with his cutting activity. He is an inspiration to all of us. Dylan showed a small triangular celestite and a large triangular celestite that weighed 12.5 carats; very impressive. Dylan polished the celestite on mylar with 50K diamond.

He showed four matching lovely square princess cut danburites, two opal doublets and one opal triplet, and one green kornerupine. He showed three brown andalucites, a round, a triangle, and an emerald cut. He showed seven "sea foam" green tourmalines, an oval, a large emerald cut, a marquise, a kite, a triangle, and two small emerald cuts. Dylan said that the "sea foam" tourmalines were from a copper mine in Nigeria. He showed two triangular bi-colored tourmalines, two triangular danburites, one triangular pink tourmaline, one triangular Mexican bytownite feldspar, and two tiny benitoites. He also showed three Mexican reddish-orange opals, a cushion square, an emerald cut, and a triangle. All of the triangular stones that Dylan cut were done in his "Montringle Cushion Triangle" cut, a beautiful and interesting design for a triangle.

Nancy Attaway displayed nine stones that she cut. She showed one large pearshape Nigerian tourmaline that exhibited a deep electric blue hue. She showed a long emerald cut Nigerian blue tourmaline and two "Flasher Cut" (twelve-sided) round Nigerian blue tourmalines. She showed two matching large emerald cut blue topazes slated for earrings. She showed a "Flasher Cut" round Russian chrome diopside and a square Russian chrome diopside, both with rich green hues. (Chrome diopside is an indicator mineral for diamonds; these chrome diopsides were from the Russian diamond area of Yakutsia). She showed a large shield-shaped grayish-green moldavite that she cut for a meteorite dealer. Nancy also showed her new 20th anniversary wedding ring that Steve made for her, a large ring in yellow and white 18Kt gold with two quarter-carat diamonds, one on each side, with two half circle ledges that had five small diamonds each, and a 9.5mm round, well cut, cornflower blue Ceylon sapphire that weighed 4.85 carats. What a ring!

Steve Attaway had made for a customer a diamond and sapphire ring and a diamond and sapphire pendant in 18Kt yellow gold, and he showed photos of these. The ring had four diamonds, two on each side of an oval sapphire. The pendant had a bird theme, where a diamond was the eye, a round

sapphire was the body, the tail was set with two tapered diamond baguettes, and the wings were paved in small diamonds. Steve also showed four gold castings of pinwheel designs that he milled out and cast.



Program Speaker

by Nancy Attaway

Guild member and Professor at the University of New Mexico, **Dr. Marc Price** addressed his university students on the “Formation of the Solar System” in the Lodestar Auditorium upstairs in the New Mexico Museum of Natural History. The New Mexico Faceters Guild were guests at this lecture given to the students at the beginning of their college school year.

Marc Price spoke of the development of our solar system from the beginning of the universe 14.2 billion years ago to the present time. Galaxies formed after 4 million years. He said that the original elements of hydrogen and helium were heated to intensely high temperatures, describing how gas clouds collapsed to form giant stars. Sound waves bouncing back and forth across the universe caused forming masses to become more and more dense until gravitational forces emerged. Big clouds became self-gravitational and attracted particles that entered into the forming masses. The density of these masses concentrated in the center and pulled peripheral matter inward until the masses collapsed upon themselves to form giant stars. These stars exploded when their contraction reached a critical limit. Since the stars were composed mostly of hydrogen gas with smaller amounts of helium gas, the build-up of hydrogen gas made fusion possible. Through fusion new elements formed, including metals. The metals that formed inside these giant stars were dispersed into the universe, when the stars exploded. As the stars cooled, gravity forced the collapsing gases down upon themselves again. Through these cycles of contraction and expansion many elements were

formed, including carbon, nitrogen, silica, and iron. This fusion process also formed the heavy elements. Marc said that iron absorbs the energy and cools off the star that has collapsed from gravity. He said that the gas cloud of a star is composed of 75% hydrogen, 23% helium, and 2% metals.

Marc said that it is not known how these stars were actually compressed to the point that the heavier elements were formed. Perhaps it was from the forces generated by a supernova, a previously big star. Stars explode with such a tremendous heat and energy that other particles are propelled into the nuclei, forcing into the center the heavier elements that are above iron in the Periodic Table. This compression made the clouds self-gravitational. These clouds also rotated as they became smaller, and a magnetic field formed inside them. The explosion of the enriched gas yields a high velocity wave approaching 1/3 to 1/2 the speed of light.

Marc mentioned the tremendous amount of carbon and silicate dust mixed with ice, methane, and ammonia found in space. When clouds compress, they become very dense. Molecules that are formed on the grains of dust are mostly organic, but some are inorganic. These clouds get darker and darker with increased concentrations of dust grains, and they eventually become giant molecular clouds with regions so dense that they are self-gravitating. As these clouds get smaller, they get hotter and hotter. As the temperature increases, the clouds rotate faster. The faster the clouds rotate, the flatter they become. Their high velocity of spin and their heavily concentrated magnetic field make them flatten out or become more oblate. Marc said that planetismals form from dust as clouds, darkened from heavy concentrations of dust, continue to condense, spin, and flatten into a pancake shape.

Marc said that a protostar has an infrared (glowing red) light. The center of a protostar collapses faster, but it is still very dense and extremely hot. Temperatures at the center are estimated at several million degrees and allow the condition for fusion of the hydrogen elements. The

tremendous energy from fusion and the gravity pulling in gives rise to a stable star. Marc said that planets form from the elements left from the birth of stars.

Marc defined a solar body as having an equilibrium of matter being absorbed and matter being emitted. The stellar winds blow the lighter matter, like gases, away. In the flattened disk near a polestar diverse aggregations of matter are found. Ices and gases gather at the colder regions of a planetismal. Differentiation sorts matter according to their melting point. There is also differentiation in the cooling temperatures of matter, and this describes the point at which matter condenses out of the melt upon cooling. The more dense elements fall in the center of the melt. Marc said that cooling and the subsequent crust formation of planets occurred 3.5 billion years ago and marked the beginning of geologic activity. He also mentioned the two types of planets: terrestrial and gaseous.

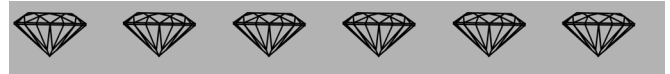
On terrestrial planets, such as Earth, Marc said that the outgassing of volcanic activity and the impacts of comets greatly affected the atmosphere. Also, density differentiation, volcanic action, underground water, tectonic plate drift (mountain building), erosion from wind and water, and meteorite/comet impacts all greatly affected the surface morphology of Earth, as well as other planets and moons.

Marc said that when a star dies, such as a red giant, it greatly expands. This allows a more rapid cooling. Its inner core becomes an oscillator. It throws its layers off and eventually becomes a cloud of gas. Marc stated that white dwarfs are smaller but very hot.

Marc explained that fusion generated plasma (ionized gas with zero net charge) is ejected by magnetic fields of the sun, or corona mass ejections (CME). When charged particles from the CMEs interact with atoms or molecules in the Earth's ionosphere an Aurora Borealis may be seen as a

brilliant display of flashing and moving (and sometimes colorful) lights visible in the night sky, mainly at the North Polar Region.

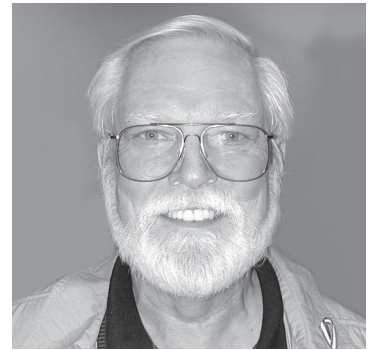
After his talk, Marc fielded questions from the audience. The New Mexico Faceters Guild thanks Dr. Marc Price for inviting us to hear his informative talk on the "Formation of the Solar System."



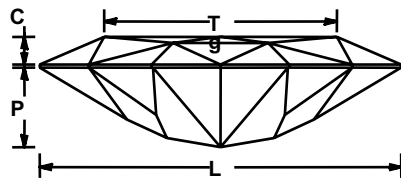
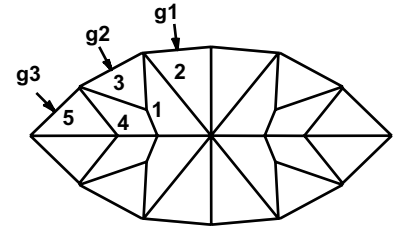
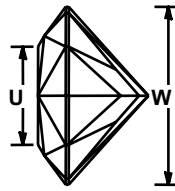
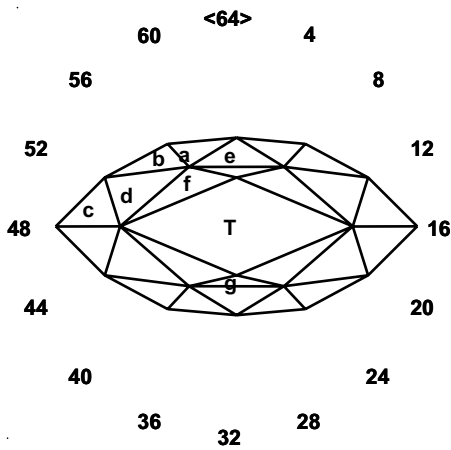
FACET DESIGNER'S WORKSHOP **Evolving Designs**

By Ernie Hawes

Let's talk a bit about design evolution. Sometimes when I work on a design, I get different ideas which frequently evolve into variations on the original idea. This may happen as I'm working on the original pattern or sometimes I will get ideas for variations well after I've completed the original.



Whenever I create a design, I try to come up with the best pattern possible. I want the design to have good brightness and scintillation, as well as originality. Above all, I want the design to have what is often an elusive quality: I want it to look "good", to be interesting. I've created and discarded many more designs than I've published, either because I couldn't achieve a reasonable degree of brightness and scintillation, or simply because I didn't feel a design was interesting enough to offer to others. For me anyway, a "good" design, one that is truly different and really catches the eye, is harder to achieve than one might expect, and when it happens, it brings a genuine sense of accomplishment.



Fiesta III

By Ernie Hawes

Angles for R.I. = 1.630

45 + 12 girdles = 57 facets

2-fold, mirror-image symmetry

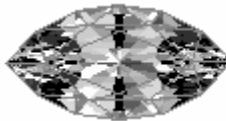
64 index

$L/W = 2.018$ $T/W = 1.311$ $U/W = 0.544$

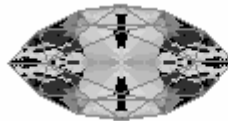
$P/W = 0.444$ $C/W = 0.156$

$Vol./W^3 = 0.400$

Average Brightness



Random



COS = 55.6 %



ISO = 68.5 %



Dispersion = 10.2 %

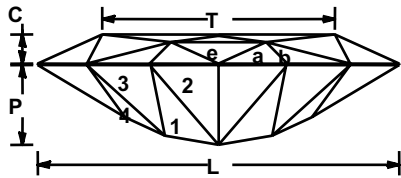
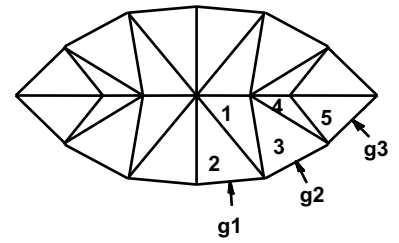
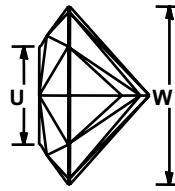
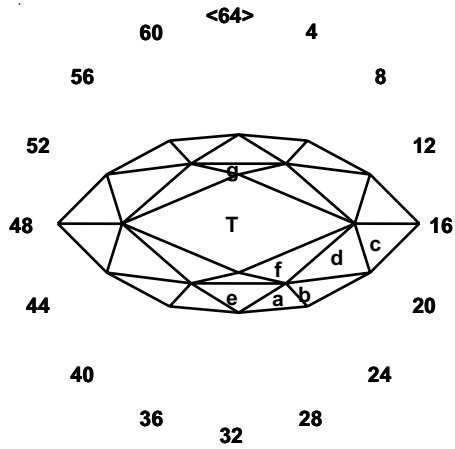
Scintillation = 36.6 %

PAVILION

1	40.00°	02-30-34-62
g1	90.00°	01-31-33-63
2	41.67°	01-31-33-63
3	42.39°	05-27-37-59
g2	90.00°	05-27-37-59
4	40.00°	06-26-38-58
5	40.00°	08-24-40-56
g3	90.00°	08-24-40-56

CROWN

a	40.84°	01-31-33-63
b	35.80°	05-27-37-59
c	32.04°	08-24-40-56
d	29.91°	06-26-38-58
e	36.00°	64-32
f	12.75°	04-28-36-60
g	30.62°	64-32
T	00.00°	Table



Fiesta IV

By Ernie Hawes

Angles for R.I. = 1.630

45 + 12 girdles = 57 facets

2-fold, mirror-image symmetry

64 index

$L/W = 2.018$ $T/W = 1.311$ $U/W = 0.544$

$P/W = 0.444$ $C/W = 0.156$

$Vol./W^3 = 0.399$

Average Brightness



Random



COS = 54.5 %



ISO = 68.5 %



Dispersion = 14.2 %

Scintillation = 35.0 %

PAVILION

1	40.00°	02-30-34-62
g1	90.00°	01-31-33-63
2	41.67°	01-31-33-63
3	41.47°	05-27-37-59
g2	90.00°	05-27-37-59
4	40.00°	06-26-38-58
5	40.00°	08-24-40-56
g3	90.00°	08-24-40-56

CROWN

a	40.84°	01-31-33-63
c	32.04°	08-24-40-56
b	35.80°	05-27-37-59
d	29.91°	06-26-38-58
e	36.00°	64-32
f	12.75°	04-28-36-60
g	30.62°	64-32
T	0.00°	Table

Designs that evolve from another pattern come about sometimes because I see something in the diagram that I think might be better. Or, I may I think about a change that could make a design more interesting, or at least equally interesting while being sufficiently different to create a variation. Above all, I always try to improve a design's scintillation and brightness.

Recently, while going through my collection of rough, I noticed that I have several typically elongated crystal sections of tourmaline that are sufficiently damaged on the ends that a marquise pattern would be a good choice for cutting them. So, I began looking at the marquise cuts that I designed in the past for some possible choices. As I reviewed the patterns, I got several ideas for variations on one particular design that I developed ten years ago. The Fiesta Marquise is an interesting design with several elements that are rather different from the traditional navette or marquise style of cut. Since the original pattern was designed for some elongated pieces of citrine that I had, I figured that rather than just redoing the angles, I might as well work out some of the ideas I had for new variations. I had already created one variation, but coming up with more just seemed the logical thing to do.

The resulting designs are *Fiesta III* and *Fiesta IV*. These are not designs for beginners, but the average experienced cutter should have no problem with either. The crowns are identical. The differences are in the pavilions. I tried to have as many facets as possible at the specified pavilion main angle on *Fiesta III*. This meant that some facets didn't have good meets. With *Fiesta IV*, I brought those facets in to meet in the keel of the pattern. Brightness and scintillation are about the same in both designs, but dispersion is somewhat increased in *Fiesta IV*. Brightness is diminished in the ends on both designs, but this is typical of most marquise patterns and is offset somewhat by increased scintillation in this area.



In the News

Gem Beryl in Finland

Source: *GIA on the web 10/1/04*

In May 2004, several world-class crystals of green gem beryl, some exceeding 1 kg, were unearthed at the Luumaki pegmatite in Finland. This locality in southern Finland was first discovered in 1982, when a piece of transparent colorless topaz was found at a road construction site. Claims were subsequently staked to the source of the stone, a granitic pegmatite that runs parallel to a road. Initial mining yielded the discovery of at least one gem beryl pocket. The deposit produced some significant crystals, as reported in the Spring 1993 issue of *Gems & Gemology*. The pegmatite was mined during the summer seasons until 1995. Mining revealed the distribution of the beryl in the pegmatite to be sporadic. In the past three years, renewed work at this deposit, now known as the Karelia Beryl mine, by a newly formed mining company has yielded some additional production, which recently included some of the finest and largest green gem beryl ever found in Western Europe. The location of the mining area is Kannatsalo (Kivi Jarvi, Luumaki, Karelia), situated on a small island in one of the 70,000 Finnish lakes.

North Carolina Hiddenite

Source: *Lapidary Journal November 2004*

North Carolina is the only home to a very unique gemstone known as hiddenite. Hiddenite is a bright emerald green gem variety of the mineral species spodumene. The name was given to the gem in honor of the man who first identified those unique North Carolina crystals in 1879, W. E. Hidden. Chromium is the coloring agent for hiddenite and is the same coloring agent for emeralds, which are found nearby. The initial discovery of hiddenite occurred on the Warren farm near Salem Church, in Alexander County, North Carolina, following the discovery of emeralds in the loose soil. Hiddenite crystals tend to occur in small pockets. In recent years, Terry Ledford, Jr. and W. Renn Adams have been mining

in this area, now known as the Adams farm. In 2003, they discovered two pockets, the largest of which was about 2.5 feet across. Those two pockets produced a combined total of approximately 1,200 crystals of hiddenite. Most of the crystals were small, but two were quite large. All of the crystals showed etching, which is the norm for hiddenite crystals and for the emerald crystals in the area. The color also was not uniform and goes from bright green to a yellow green. Another variety of gem spodumene in a lavender color is called kunzite.

The Patriot Act Will Affect Jewelers and Cutters

Source: Lapidary Journal November 2004

Under Title III, Section 352 of the USA Patriot Act, any business buying and selling \$50,000 or more in precious gemstones, metals, and jewelry annually will now be required to have an anti-money laundering program in place. The \$50,000 number reflects everything that was purchased and sold throughout the year. It does not reflect the profit or gross or net income. Non-compliance can result in a six-figure fine. This is not optional or voluntary. It is now a law. Contact JVC at: www.jvclegal.org for a compliance kit. The fee for the kit is \$150 for JVC member and \$300 for non-members. Rules for compliance include: the appointment of a compliance officer, risk assessment, a written program, training your staff, and periodic testing. The US Treasury Department will be enforcing this law. For more information on money laundering, see: www1.oecd.org/fatf/.

What Is Ice Jade?

Source: JCK October 2004

Some years ago, nearly colorless and transparent jade was called “water” jade and was priced the same as very commercial green jade. Then, extremely fine examples of this water jade appeared on the market about five or six years ago. This colorless jade exhibited a very compact crystal structure that imparted a most unusual translucence or glassy appearance. The term “crystal” jade was first used

to describe this jade. The term “ice” jade is now used. “Crystal” refers to the best water jade, and “ice” jade is denoted as the best of the best. However, this nomenclature remains highly subjective. Enhanced digital images of ice jade show the characteristic wavy crystalline structure of “water” and “ice” jade. Prices have skyrocketed, and a strand of ice jade beads recently sold for \$10,000.

Diamonds in Montana

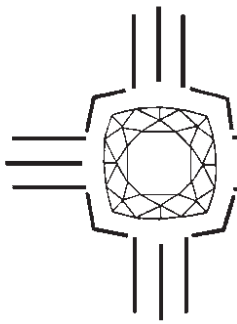
Source: The Albuquerque Journal October 20, 2004

Tom Charlton has discovered kimberlite, the molten rock in which diamonds are found, in an 80-acre site known as the Homestead property, situated southeast of Lewistown, Montana. This land could become Montana’s first commercial diamond operation and the only working diamond mine in the US. Tom Charlton is an official with Delta Mining and Exploration Corp., based in Kentucky. The kimberlite lies exposed, pushed to the surface millions of years ago, and this accessibility should reduce excavation costs and lessen damage to the land. The Kelsey Lake site in Northern Colorado, near the Wyoming state line, was home to the only working mine in the US until the mine closed several years ago. Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado all are known to have the right kind of geology for diamonds. Canada currently has the only working diamond mines in the northern hemisphere.

JCPenney to Sell Moissanite Jewelry

Source: JCK on the net October 25, 2004

JCPenney, one of the largest department stores in America, will sell moissanite jewelry throughout its stores, catalogs, and internet service. Through collaboration with Charles & Colvard, the only source for moissanite, the Fine Jewelry Store at JCPenney is the only national retailer to offer moissanite jewelry. The complete moissanite collection for men and women features rings, pendants, bracelets, and earrings in 14Kt. white and yellow gold.



The New Mexico Facetors Guild

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