

The New Mexico Facetor

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The Prez Sez:

by Scott R. Wilson, Ph.D.

As the year 2001 opens for the New Mexico Faceters Guild, we look forward to lots of very interesting and highly educational programs. We all enjoy these activities, as they are a core function of our group. To find out about these activities, we rely on our newsletter.

At the last meeting, elections for a new slate of Guild officers were held. Among the open positions was the newsletter editor, a position which has been held for over four years by Nancy and Steve Attaway. There were no accepted nominations for the editors position at the election, and, thus, we do not formally have an editor at this time. Steve and Nancy are continuing to support this office out of kindness for a short time, but we must hand over this office to someone new soon.

Please consider taking this office as a service to your Guild, just as Steve and Nancy have done, and Ernie Hawes and Merrill O. Murphy before them. The newsletter is only required to be a means of communication. Anything past that is at the option of the editor, so please do not feel that your contribution in this area would be inadequate. We require only the basics. Steve and Nancy will still serve as a wonderful resource to help you along, so you will not be starting out cold.

Another area of concern for our Guild is that we need to continue our outreach of new members. Please think about some ways that we might reach the right audience efficiently and gain the interest of gem and faceting-minded people in our area. The Guild needs the old members as well as new ones to remain vibrant and continue our exchange of knowledge and ideas.

A few possibilities include offering some short (or long) classes in faceting through various venues, demonstrations at various shows and events, and even possibly connections through higher education institutions, such as UNM. We will talk about this at the next Guild meeting, so bring your ideas and solutions. See you then.



Dates for Future NMFG Meetings

Every year, the contract between the New Mexico Faceters Guild and the New Mexico Museum of Natural History is renewed. The following dates will represent meetings scheduled for the Guild during the year 2001:

January 11, March 8, May 9, July 12, September 13, and November 8. As most of you know, the New Mexico Faceters Guild meets every other month on the second Thursday. Please note that there was a scheduling conflict for the date of May 10, a Thursday, which would have been the date scheduled. However, the museum will be opening the observatory at that time, and the date of May 9 was selected instead. Please note that **May 9 is a Wednesday.**



Guild President Scott Wilson



In the News

Gary and Rainy Peters Equals Talent Squared

Source: *Lapidary Journal* January, 2001

New Mexico Faceters Guild members, Gary and Rainy Peters, the award-winning, jewelry-making, and now lapidary duo, were featured in *Lapidary Journal's* section, "Facets". A picture of their award-winning design, a 14Kt. yellow gold pendant with a faceted and carved long, thin emerald-cut aquamarine accented by bezel-set diamonds, accompanied the article. Congratulations!

Canadian Certified Diamonds Now on Market

Source: *JCK* December 2000

The first diamonds officially certified as mined and cut in Canada were recently placed on the Canadian market. The diamonds are also slated to enter markets in the United States and Japan. Selling the stones as North American diamonds markets them with a special cache and should well appeal to patriotic Canadians. Each certed diamond carries a notice that explains how the diamond is a natural Canadian Arctic diamond that was mined, cut, and polished in the Northwest territories. The Canadian government has developed a strict monitoring system that will follow the diamonds from the mine through the cutting factory. All of the diamonds will be GemPrint with the official logo, a stylized Canadian maple leaf with the EKATI brand.

New Laser Treatment for Diamonds

Source: *JCK* December, 2000

First Diamond Group's Diamond Enhancing Laboratories in Tel Aviv announced a new laser treatment. The treatment was discovered at GIA's Gem Trade Laboratory and described in the Summer 2000 issue of *Gems and Gemology*. The new treatment reaches a darkly colored inclusion by expanding small cleavages from a dark inclusion to the surface. A strong acid then can enter the diamond through the small breaks and reach the inclusion for bleaching. The cost for the treatment runs about \$150 and leaves the diamond without the black colored inclusion. No laser drill hole is left at all.



Minutes of NMFG Meeting

November 9, 2000

by Scott Wilson

President Scott Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and greeted all members and guests.

Old Business

Ernie Hawes said that **Louie Natonek** had surgery performed in October and was doing just okay. Ernie mentioned that Louie Natonek, Eldon Fleck, and himself had started the New Mexico Faceters Guild in 1981. Ernie encouraged folks to send cards or call and chat with Louie.

Paul Hlava pointed out that the AGATE Gem and Jewelry Show was coming soon. He encouraged people to attend the show and learn about gems, as well as meet the gem and jewelry artisans displaying their work.

New Business

President Scott Wilson pointed out that Guild Editors, Steve and Nancy Attaway were not in attendance at the Guild meeting. They were attending a conference in Dallas, where Steve was presented the Sidney Fernbach award for excellence in computer applications.

President Scott Wilson announced that it was time to vote on the slate of Guild officers to serve the next two year term during 2001 and 2002. Nominations were:

President: Scott Wilson

Vice-President/Programs: Paul Hlava

Treasurer: Ina Swantner

Librarian: Russ Spiering

Editors: Steve and Nancy Attaway

Special Events Coordinators (two required): **Rainy Peters** and **Eileen Smith**

President Scott Wilson opened the floor for other nominations. The Attaways were nominated in absentia for editors of the Guild newsletter. Obviously, this nomination

could not be accepted. Scott asked several people to consider this position but got no takers. Scott pointed out that the editors' position did not require that the newsletter remain at the level it has been for the last few years. Its primary function is a communication vehicle for the members, and this need could be met with a much simpler publication. Still, no takers for the editors position. A motion was put forth by **Paul Hlava** to vote by acclamation. A second was from **Maria Traulsen**. A vote from the membership was unanimous in favor of accepting the proposed slate.

Refreshments

No refreshments were served. **Scott Wilson** and **Nancy Attaway** will bring refreshments to the January meeting.

Future Programs

Guild Mineralogist and newly elected Vice-President of Programs, **Paul Hlava** will arrange for the intrepid commercial geologist, **Douglas Irving** to address the Guild during the January meeting. Douglas Irving will present his findings from a recent mineralogical trip to Africa.

Program Speaker

by Scott Wilson

The New Mexico Faceters Guild was privileged to be addressed by **Scott Gould**, Graduate Gemologist, gem and jewelry appraiser for Mark Diamonds Jewelers in Albuquerque. Scott presented a brief introduction to appraising and appraisal standards and opened the floor to questions from the audience, which came in rapid succession.

Scott is a student of Larry Phillips, a very well known and highly respected gem and jewelry appraiser in Albuquerque. Scott is a native New Mexican who got into appraisal work via his interest in rocks and minerals as a youngster. He took a one-year gemology (GG) course at GIA, also receiving training in jewelry and manufacturing arts. He gained experience rendering design and fabrication work in Hawaii. After a visit to Albuquerque with some friends, he began appraising at Mark Diamonds Jewelers.

At the time, Scott related that there were many people in the area doing appraisals, but there was very little control of quality, qualifications, or guaranty of claims. Poor or incomplete descriptions were rampant, incorrect grading was common, and the whole process was very loose. Scott wanted no part of that and began to take courses from the American Society of Appraisers. He became one of only four ASA qualified appraisers in the state of New Mexico.

Scott related that the appraisal process is universal in approach, regardless of the object being appraised. A strict set of standards exists, the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practices (USPAP), an oft-forgotten resource that can help keep appraisals consistent, repeatable, and accurate.

A key aspect is “disclosure, disclosure, and disclosure”. Every aspect of the object, including intangible factors, such as who owns it, its history, fame, owner interest in the object, etc., must be disclosed to establish a complete record and background for the valuation.

Any appraisal must clearly recognize the use to which the valuation will be placed. Typical uses include appraisal for insurance, tax donation, and probate or estate matters. The value of an object may vary, depending upon the use to which the appraisal and the object appraised is placed.

Value is estimated by a few general approaches. The “cost approach” looks at the original price, cost of parts and labor to recreate an identical piece, comparable, and last auction price. Another approach, “market data” looks at nation-wide sales figures for similar pieces. This type of data is compiled in various publications (expensive ones) that, if properly used, can help provide a reference point for the appraiser. Yet, another approach is the “income” approach, which estimates value based on rental or royalty proceeds and not often applicable to gems or jewelry items.

It is clear that for the more custom a piece is (like our custom gems and jewelry), the market becomes difficult to evaluate. This is because there are very few transactions, and those may not be known widely enough to be used as reference. One-of-a-kind and unique pieces are the most difficult to deal with in appraising. Whatever the case, Scott observed that the appraisal should be to the “highest and best use” to preserve the accuracy of the appraisal.

A question was raised about the evaluation of a custom cut stone that might be under consideration for donation, perhaps, to a museum. Scott pointed out that the stone must be evaluated on the “secondary market”, not the retail market, according to IRS standards. The result is that an exquisite, top-end rhodolite garnet similar to one seen in a local store for \$3,000 cannot be donated and tagged with that store’s marked value. Its value would be that which the buyer of the store could turn the stone around and resell it via the local market. This appears to be self-contradictory, in that the last sale price for a similar item, a “comparable”, in the open market establishes the value. However, the IRS apparently cannot deal with that fact.

Another question arose regarding the now famous Fred Ward emerald case, which will not be detailed here. Scott was asked how the appraiser might have done things differently that would have provided better protection for himself. Scott felt that a more complete and comprehensive description would have been the most valuable, including many more photographs. Scott felt that every appraisal must be done as if there would be a court case about it the very next week. Scott also felt that Fred Ward probably did everything right, but that he needed some additional credentials to prove his qualifications. Apparently, the first thing a court asks for is credentials. If those are not stellar and impeccable, then the case can take a sour turn, even if everything was done perfectly. Scott noted that Fred Ward’s job would be very difficult, as plotting maps of inclusions in emeralds is a hard job, due to the nature of the material and the skills of the gem treatment industry at hiding flaws.

A question was raised about how best to select an appraiser. Scott felt that the best approach was to look for one that has set, flat fees (not based on a percentage of value), one that has quality ethics, qualifications, and credentials. Look for one that can show examples of their work that clearly substantiates and documents the methodology and value of an item.

Scott provided some handouts from the ASA that detail the qualifications of the ASA Master Gemologist Appraiser credentials and some aspects of the appraisals an ASA/MGA will produce. This would serve as a good starting point for evaluating an appraiser.

Scott was asked how much time it might take to do an appraisal on a \$20,000 emerald. Depending on the stone, the buyer, and the situation, he felt it would take several hours for evaluation of the stone itself, collecting data by observation and testing, and photographing the stone. Another several hours would be needed to do market evaluation and research (apparently quite a number of stones of this level trade regularly) and a few hours analyzing the data and documenting the valuation. Probably, it would require nearly all of a day’s work.

Scott closed by observing that an appraisal must be comprehensive, with full disclosure of all aspects of value and anything known that might have an influence on that value. Scott Gould can be reached at Mark Diamonds Jewelers, 505-296-9525.



The Legend of Kitty Rock

By Merrill O. Murphy

The following story, having little to do with faceting or even minerals, is a true recounting from long ago when I was 18 or 19 years old. I have used the real names of the people involved and where they lived. I think it is very possible that I am the only living person to know the specifics, but should anyone claim the story to be untrue, send them to me. As some of our readers know, I grew up near the little town of Rifle, Colorado, and the characters in my story were all from the same area.

There were farmers, cattlemen, and sheep owners in the general area of Rifle. The ranchers and cattlemen had nothing to do with our story, but the sheep owners were directly involved. There were three or four of them in the immediate area who, individually, owned too few animals to obtain a grazing permit in the Flat Top Mountains to the north. So, in the springtime, they combined their sheep into one large band of about 2,000 head and drove the entire group to the mountains. This drive to the mountains took place in three stages. The first move brought them to a scrub oak and brush area at an altitude of about 6,000 feet above sea level. The second move took them farther north to an altitude of, perhaps, 7,500 feet, moving higher as the snow melted away from the high mountains. The first and second moves were to leased, privately owned land. The third move, about the first of July, took them to leased federal grazing land in the Flat Tops. Sometimes during a move, part-owners of the herd would accompany the herders to help keep all the sheep in one group. At other times, the herders would do all the work alone. In this particular first move, my Uncle Bert Randolph and I were the herders, and one owner, named Johnny Green, helped us with the band of animals.

About a dozen miles north of Rifle, the dirt road reaches an abruptly rising mountain chain named the Hog Back. The road passes through the Hog Back via a narrow cut called the Rifle Gap. The Gap, worn through the mountains by the waters of Rifle Creek, is no more than 150 yards wide at the bottom. So steep is the mountain that rock-climbing gear would be required if one wished to climb either side of the Gap. The Gap itself is probably no more than a mile long from entry to exit. About half way through the Gap, a modern day Daniel Boone-type had built a small house for his wife and one child (I think). I no longer remember this man's first name, but his last name

was Hallenbeck. Anyway, this fellow was a real backwoods guy, gone into the high mountains most of the time, even in winter. This was one those "gone" times. Hallenbeck's wife was rather pretty, and Johnny Green, though married himself, rather liked the lady of the house.

Our band of sheep moved slowly, eating shrubs as it went, and this time, reached the Gap in later afternoon. With night coming on, we gathered our sheep toward the north (upper end) of the Gap. Uncle Bert and I got the sheep into a close grouping, cooked a meal, and spread our bedrolls just north of the sheep. Johnny Green spread his bedroll at the south end of the band, behind a boulder and just across the dirt road from the Hallenbeck house.

The night was star-studded, bright and clear. The sheep were quiet and happy far into the night. Then, all of a sudden, things changed! Half dressed and barefoot, Johnny Green came running, scattering sheep every which way. It took us at least a half hour to settle the sheep down again and another half hour to calm Johnny Green. He swore he had awakened to see a huge mountain lion looking down on him from the top of the boulder.

With the coming of daylight, we went down to Johnny's Boulder. Sure enough, there in the dust of the road were the tracks of an enormous lion. Johnny's wild yell had frightened the lion as much as the lion had frightened Johnny. Its tracks were spaced at least 15 feet apart in the road dust. If I remember correctly, Johnny never again accompanied us on a sheep move.

But, this is written for readers who are interested in gems and geology. So, I think it appropriate to add a paragraph or two on those subjects.

The Hog Back is almost entirely made up of huge sandstone masses tilted at about 60 degrees from horizontal. Soft coal veins dot the spaces between the sandstone masses. There is now a dam and reservoir at the upper end of the Gap. The main fork of Rifle Creek flows into the northeast end of the reservoir. The combined middle and west forks flow into the northwest end of the reservoir. A dry fork enters from the north. (I have forgotten its name). There is an old vanadium/uranium mine up the east fork of the creek, and there are minor veinlets of these minerals up the dry fork.

The road up the east fork of Rifle Creek is paved nowadays. It leads to an interesting falls, and a few miles beyond the falls, is a wonderful canyon with nearly vertical walls 150 feet or more high. There are old lead prospects

into the lower edges of the canyon. Perhaps 3/4 of a mile short of the canyon and on the upper side of the road is an interesting deposit of gypsum, carvable, I think. Once upon a long time ago, this canyon was a wonderful place to picnic or to cast a fishing lure into crystal waters. Now, too many people have discovered my canyon. Hordes of visitors, rock climbers, and what-not pollute the once pristine canyon.

The road up the west fork is far less dramatic. About 5 or 6 miles northwest of the reservoir, the creek and road forks again. There are ranches up both the middle fork and the west fork. A small creek flows in the middle fork and an even smaller one flows from the west fork. There was once a few gold prospects of no consequence up the middle fork but none that I know of up the west fork. There are a few petrified bones have been found along the upper side of the west fork road a mile or so above the confluence of the middle and west forks. The fossil remains would probably lend themselves to cabochon cutting but are too nearly opaque for faceting.

My Randolph grandparents once lived on a small ranch high up the west fork of Rifle Creek. All of their 13 children were born there. Of the 13, only 5 lived to maturity. The life they lived was incredibly harsh. That's the way it was a long time ago.



True or False?

Is it true that a tiny zircon, found in Western Australia, is the oldest bit of earth known - 4.4 billion years old?



NMFG Party at Tucson

A party during the February Tucson Show has been a tradition for many years for New Mexico Faceters Guild members and friends to get together for dinner, drinks, and a round of show and tell. Nancy Attaway has organized a dinner party during the February Tucson Show for any faceter, mineral or gem aficionado who wants to join the fun. **A party room has been reserved at El Parador Restaurant at 7:00 p.m. for February 3, 2001, Saturday evening.** The address for El Parador Restaurant is **2744 East Broadway.**



In the News

New Pearl Growth Enhancer

Source: Professional Jeweler November, 2000

Fred Ward reports that Biopacific Development, Inc. of San Francisco has created oyster and pearl growth enhancers that enable pearl oysters to grow faster and produce nacre more quickly. The pearl growth enhancers are biologically active substances that work by stimulating the metabolism of mantle tissue cells and increases nacre deposition around a bead nucleus by 36% in only six months.

The development stage for the pearl growth enhancers spanned over two years. During experiments, the pearl growth enhancers increased the size of black pearls and black-lipped pearl oysters by .64 mm in six months, and the growth of treated oyster shell increased by 22% over control oysters. Survival rates and nucleus retention rates remained unchanged, as did quality characteristics of luster, shape, surface, and color. Increases in size lifts pearl values and results in higher pearl farm profits sooner than usual.

Testing was performed mainly on South Seas pearl oysters, however, the new pearl growth enhancers may greatly benefit the akoya pearls and the Chinese and Japanese freshwater pearls. A time-release capsule in six to twelve month versions is being tested for insertion during the nucleation process.

New Chalcedony from Nevada

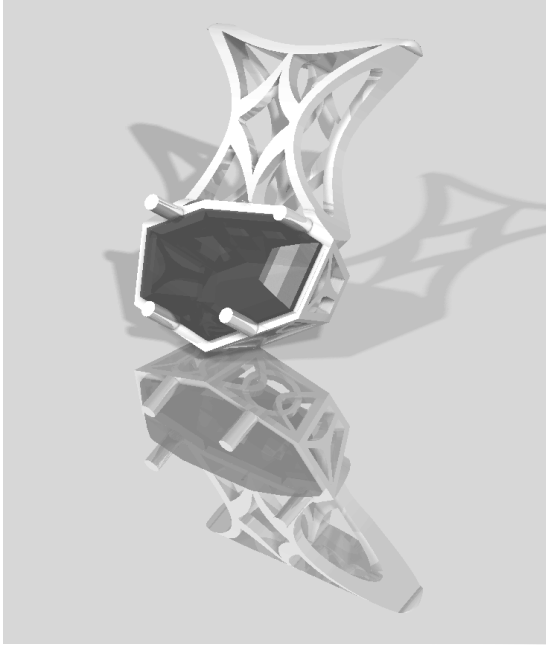
Source: Professional Jeweler January, 20001

A new purple chalcedony from Nevada will make its debut at the February Tucson Show. Gem Reflections of California in San Anselmo will be marketing the stones.

Antiquorum to Auction the Carolina Queen

Source: National Jeweler November 16, 2000

The Antiquorum Auction House plans a December auction in New York for the Carolina Queen, a rare 18.8 carat pearshape emerald from Hiddenite, North Carolina. The auction will broadcast live from Antiquorum's Web site. {JCK later reported that the emerald was pulled.}



Steve and Nancy Attaway's new jewelry piece: a 14Kt. white gold pendant with a 12.60 carat Madagascar rose quartz cut in Nancy's Long Shield 2000. The pendant design was rendered with SolidWorks CAD/CAM design.



Facet Designer's Workshop

By Ernie Hawes



Scott Wilson

What's In A Name?

Selecting appropriate names for new designs is sometimes a bit difficult. Obviously, the designer does not want to use a name that has already been used. However, that is easier said than done, even with the availability of Dat-aVue2 as a reference. Some folks object to the use of a person's name. Others consider using the names of loved ones to be very appropriate. Most designers try to arrive at a name that seems fitting to the design. Of course, a new design is always an exciting thing to complete, and it is not surprising that the designer wants to come up with a name that bespeaks how wonderful the design seems to be at the moment of completion. I suspect that most designers are often stumped when it comes time to name their latest creation. I know that I have a hard time deciding what name I should give every design I create. All this being said, I hope you will forgive me for selecting the rather high-sounding names for the two new designs in this issue. (Perhaps, Fred Van Sant has the right idea by giving his designs the simple designation of his initials combined with a sequential number.)

The first design I call "The Winter Queen". Don't ask me why. It's winter, and I could not think of anything better.

Rectangular cushions are almost never evenly brilliant, and this is no exception. I think this design will lend itself well to a medium color amethyst or citrine. The angles are not exactly what traditionally would be used for quartz, but I did some experimenting. I changed angles several times until I came up with a brightness plot that was significantly better than traditional angles would have achieved. Sometimes doing this works well straight on, but doesn't work the moment you start tilting the gem. However, running this design through GemFrame and GemFlick indicates that it will be a livelier stone at most angles that I would have gotten using standard main angles.

The second design I believe is fittingly named "Regal Square Cushion". The large number of facets on a big stone will just have to look like something from the Crown Jewels. Actually, I wanted a design that I could use with a fairly large piece of medium color rhodolite garnet. Designed for R.I. 1.76, it obviously will also work well for corundum, assuming you are fortunate enough to have a large sapphire or ruby. (Yes, I confess, I cut lab-created stones sometimes, and I think it will look great in a medium to light piece of synthetic corundum.)

Hopefully, I will have one or both of these designs cut in time for folks to see at the next meeting. Meanwhile, have a go at them yourself. With the preforms I have provided, neither should prove overly difficult.



Word Knowledge

Aboard navy vessels in the 1700s and early 1800s, the problem was to store the cannonballs (which were then iron spheres and truly "balls") adjacent to the cannon for quick loading without rolling around the ship in heavy seas. To that end, a heavy triangle was placed beside the cannon, and the cannonballs were stacked in these triangles called monkeys (for some reason which I have never heard). To resist excessive corrosion, these triangles were made of brass, thus, brass monkeys. When the weather was extremely cold, the brass triangle would shrink in size more than the iron cannonballs, and the balls would roll off the monkeys.

Thus, the saying, "Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey."

{Source: e-mail from Eddie Bell of The Bell Group/Rio Grande of Albuquerque.}



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NMFG Back Issues

Back issues of the *New Mexico Facetor* are available for all of 1999, all of 1998, and much of 1997. Please contact the Editor for any requests for back issues. Thank you.



**Don't forget:
next meeting
is January 11,
2001 at 7:00 pm.**

**Meeting Location:
NM Museum of
Natural History.
Dues are \$20.**

**Please send the editors
photos of your work for the
next newsletter!**

Tucson Show Calendar

Mineral & Fossil Co-op runs Jan. 26 to Feb. 10

Gem & Lapidary Wholesalers runs Jan. 27 to Feb. 9

Tucson Showplace runs Jan. 27 to Feb. 10

Globe X at Days Inn runs Jan. 27 to Feb. 10

Gem Show Productions runs Jan. 27 to Feb. 10

Intergem Tucson 2001 runs Jan. 27 to Feb. 11

Rapa River Enterprises runs Jan. 27 to Feb. 11

TopGem Minerals runs Jan. 27 to Feb. 11

Pacifica Trade Shows runs Jan. 28 to Feb. 10

Arizona Mineral & Fossil Show runs Jan. 28 to Feb. 10

Mineral & Fossil Marketplace runs Jan. 28 to Feb. 10

American Indian Exposition runs Jan. 28 to Feb. 11

La Quinta Group runs Jan. 28 to Feb. 15

Atrium Productions runs Jan. 29 to Feb. 10

Trade Shows International runs Jan. 29 to Feb. 10

Dell Productions/Scottish Rite runs Jan. 29 to Feb. 11

AGTA/MJSA, Downtown runs Jan. 31 to Feb. 5

Tucson Diamond Show runs Jan. 31 to Feb. 4

GLDA, Downtown runs Jan. 31 to Feb. 5

Gem & Jewelry Exchange (GJX) runs Feb. 1 - 6

Gem Galleria runs Feb. 1 - 6

Gem & Lapidary Wholesalers runs Feb. 1 - 9

Rio Grande/Catalog in Motion runs Feb. 2 - 5

Tucson Gem & Mineral Society Show - Feb. 8 - 11

Your photos go here!

The NMFG editors can scan your photos, stones, or finished work and display them world-wide in this space.