

IN MEMORIAM

Alan Hodgkinson (1937–2024). The gemological community mourns the loss of Scottish gemologist Alan Hodgkinson, who died in early October at the age of 87 following a brief illness. Known for his extensive use of visual optics in gem identification, Hodgkinson was a jeweler, appraiser, instructor, lecturer, and author.

Born in Liverpool in 1937, Hodgkinson began his career as a jeweler after obtaining a gemology diploma from the Gemmological Association of Great Britain (Gem-A). He soon discovered his passion for sharing gemology with others and developed his own coursework, leading gem identification courses in London. The success of the courses led to worldwide lecture and workshop tours, including South Africa, Australia, Asia, Canada, and the United States.

An active member of various gemological associations, Hodgkinson was awarded honorary lifetime memberships to many of them. In 2000, he received the first Antonio C. Bonanno Award for Excellence in Gemology from the Accredited Gemologists Association. He was also the recipient of the Canadian Gemmological Association's inaugural Diamond Award.

Hodgkinson published three books throughout his 50-year career, most recently *Gem Testing Techniques*, which extensively covers 40 years of his research on gem identification using widely available and affordable gem testing equipment.

Hodgkinson will be remembered for his passion for sharing gemology with a broad audience, particularly younger generations. He is survived by his wife, Charlotte, and two daughters. We extend our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues.



Alan Hodgkinson, shown teaching the use of the spectroscope in gem identification.

Glenn Lehrer (1953–2024). Renowned gemstone cutter and carver Glenn Lehrer passed away in November at the age of 71 following a battle with cancer. After nearly 50 years transforming stones into incredible works of art, Lehrer will be remembered for his innovative designs and unique carvings, masterfully blending science and artistry in each piece.

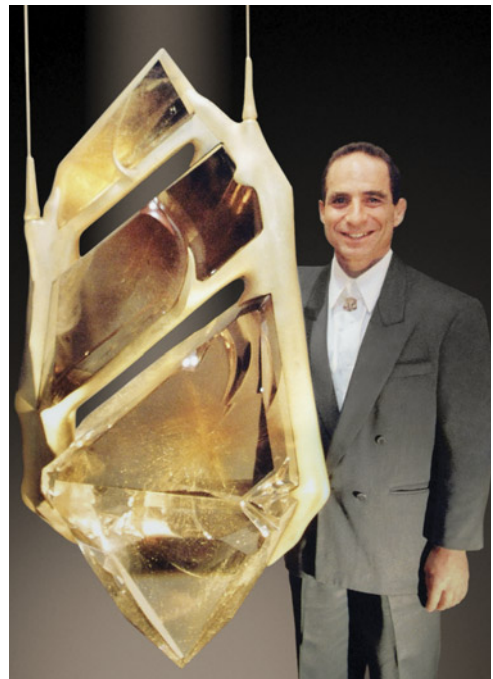
Lehrer discovered his fascination with gemstones after traveling the world extensively in the early 1970s and returning to his native California, when he felt a deep connection to a quartz crystal gifted from his brother. As a self-taught lapidary and goldsmith, he returned to college to study crystallography, mineralogy, and geology, and earned a graduate gemologist diploma from GIA in 1979.

Inspired by nature, Lehrer was devoted to creating and introducing new designs to the industry, using his own lapidary techniques. Perhaps his best-known design is the patented TorusRing, a gemstone faceted with a hole in the middle to hold another faceted gemstone inside. His groundbreaking creations earned him numerous AGTA Spectrum and Cutting Edge Awards and were featured on the cover of *Lapidary Journal* a record 18 times.

During his career, Lehrer collaborated with other notable artists and designers, including Paula Crevoshay and Lawrence Stoller. Lehrer and Stoller worked for seven years to create the 193 kg (426 lb.) rutilated quartz sculpture "Bahia" (shown in the photo). Widely considered the largest cut crystal in the world, the sculpture has permanently hung in the lobby of GIA's Carlsbad, California, campus since 2003, after being exhibited at the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles.

In later years, Lehrer enjoyed sharing his designs on the television networks Gemporia and QVC. He also penned an autobiography, *In Quest of the Indescribable: The Artistry and Life of a Gem Carver*.

Lehrer is survived by his wife, Sharon, his two brothers, and several nieces and nephews. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Lehrer's family, friends, and colleagues.



Glenn Lehrer next to the rutilated quartz carving "Bahia," created with Lawrence Stoller.