

GEM NEWS

John I. Koivula, *Editor*

DIAMONDS

Brazil

Large diamond found in Brazil. A 260-ct yellow diamond of stated "good quality" was recently found at Coromandel (about 300 km northwest of Belo Horizonte) in Minas Gerais, Brazil, by a local garimpeiro. This area has produced many fine diamonds over the years. Perhaps this discovery will spawn a more organized and detailed exploration of the area than has been carried out in the past.

India

Diamond exploration. The Mineral Exploration Corporation and the National Mineral Development Corporation, with cooperation from the Geological Survey of India, are implementing the first phase of a nationwide diamond exploration program. The first area targeted is Andhra Pradesh. Diamonds have already been found and pilot processing plants have been constructed.

Philippines

First diamond-cutting factory in Philippines. A diamond-cutting factory has now been set up in the Philippines near Manila. The company, called Manila Gem Polishers, is jointly owned by an Israeli, Mr. Y. Goldenberg, and a Philippine, Mr. Antonio Marco. The factory is presently cutting only small (1-50 points), lower-quality goods.

Singapore

Diamond exchange. The Singapore Diamond Importers Association recently announced that its new diamond exchange will be operational by the middle of 1984. The exchange, which is already affiliated with the world federation, will have approximately 200 members and will be the first such exchange in Southeast Asia.

COLORED STONES

Activity in Pakistan. The Gemstone Corporation of Pakistan reports that three new emerald deposits have been found in Charbagh, Gujar Killi, and Makad. As a by-product of initial exploration, 11,728 ct of rough emeralds have been recovered. Opened in 1981, the aquamarine and beryl deposits in Dassu (Skardu) and the topaz deposits in Katlang (Mardan) continue to produce consistently.

Amethyst from Rhode Island. Mr. Clifford H. Stevens, a gemologist from Gansevoort, New York, reports that he has rediscovered a deposit of gem-quality amethyst

from a locality in Rhode Island that was previously thought to be exhausted. The deposit is situated along the shores of Narragansett Bay near the Bristol-Mount Hope Bridge area. Mr. Stevens has found gem crystals as large as 100 ct.

Exploration in Zambia. The International Development and Construction Company of Saudi Arabia and the Reserved Minerals Corporation have reportedly joined forces to recruit qualified mining personnel to prospect for and mine emeralds and other precious minerals in Zambia.

New mining policy in Tanzania. The Tanzanian government is preparing a new mining policy that will affect small mining operations. The new policy will allow individuals, groups or even entire villages to prospect for and mine diamonds, colored stones, gold, and other minerals on a small scale with minimal government interference.

New source for beryllium. Highwood Resources Ltd. has encountered significant concentrations of beryllium during drilling operations at their Thor Lake property, North West Territories, Canada. Values as high as 2.38% beryllium oxide have been reported, and plans now exist to perform a feasibility study on the prospect. Although the beryllium found at this locality has not been in association with gem materials, whenever beryllium is found in a mining area the potential for beryllium-containing gem crystals exists. Such localities are always exciting sites for gemological prospecting.

New York chrysoberyl. Mr. Clifford Stevens also reports of reworking an old Dana locality for chrysoberyl in his home state of New York near Greenfield. In *Gemstones of North America* (Sinkankas, 1976), this locality is listed as being located "immediately west of a small pond just north of the township road which crosses Highway 9 leading north from Saratoga. The pond is about one-half mile west of the intersection of the township road with Highway 9."

Many small crystals (up to 1.5 cm) displaying the typical wedge-shaped twin habit have been found. They are greenish yellow and mostly translucent.

Recent finds in Yugoslavia. Gemologically interesting deposits of the silica gems opal, chalcedony, and jasper have been discovered in Serbia, Yugoslavia, on the

slopes of Mount Rudnik. Whether or not mining of these deposits will be economically feasible remains to be seen.

PRECIOUS METALS

Canadian gold. The Canadian gold producer, Lac Minerals, has reported that recent drilling activity on its Williams gold property at Hemlo, in Ontario, has upgraded the previous estimate of reserves for the property from 10.0 million tons at 5.8 g (0.18 oz.) of gold per ton of ore to 13.9 million tons at 5.9 g of gold per ton. This is in addition to 3.5 million tons of near-surface ore with gold values grading at 6.2 g (0.19 oz.) per ton. The Hemlo area promises to be one of the most important sources of gold in the world. Production at Hemlo could begin in 1984.

Gold in Quebec. A strata-bound gold-bearing zone has been found by Camflo Mines about 65 km north of Kirkland Lake, Quebec, Canada, on its property in the

Holloway and Harker townships. Initial drilling has begun on the property to determine the extent of the mineralized structure and to test any extensions of the main zone. Preliminary testing of the area is scheduled to be completed in 1984.

OK gold. Production at the giant OK gold mine located in Papua, New Guinea, may begin sometime this year. However, some serious problems with mud slides will increase the recovery costs for the gold.

Reid mine. Exploratory drilling at Terramar Resource Corporation's Reid mine in northern California has revealed gold values as high as 46.9 g (1.50 oz.) per ton. A section extending vertically from 7 m to 43 m showed a weighted average of 21.6 g (0.69 oz.) per ton of ore and 50.4 g (1.62 oz.) per ton of silver. Another section, extending from 57 m to 59 m, showed 12.3 g of gold and silver values of 19.9 g per ton.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Winner of the 1984 George A. Schuetz Memorial Fund Design Contest is Mr. Sekikazu G. Nakakura, of Okayama-City, Japan, for his original design of a 14K white-gold and yellow-gold man's bracelet (figure 1). Other winners in the design competition were Mrs. Shizuyo Hara, of Tokyo, Japan, in second place, and Ms. Catherine D. Villeneuve, of Montreal, Quebec, Canada, in third place.

The Schuetz contest, held annually, awards scholarships in the amounts of \$500 for first place, \$300 for second place, and \$200 for third place for training in a jewelry-related subject at any institution of the winner's choice. Only original designs of men's jewelry are eligible for entry in the competition. The 1985 Schuetz contest will be open in October of this year. Contest rules and applica-

tions will be available at that time from the Scholarship Office, Gemological Institute of America, 1660 Stewart St., Santa Monica, CA 90404.

The Geo-Literary Society was formed at Tucson in February of this year. Mrs. Alexandra Filer, of Filer's Minerals, has been elected the first president. The Geo-Literary Society has an initial goal of bringing together those who are interested in the literary arts related to minerals, gems, and fossils. The sharing of sources and the exchange of information about books, maps, drawings, and related printed matter on the subject of the natural substances of the earth is of prime concern to the group. For further information, contact: Filer's Minerals, Box 487, Yucaipa, CA 92399; or Herb Obodda,

P.O. Box 51, Short Hills, NJ 07078; or Elna Hauck, 8 Rowe Pl., Bloomfield, NJ 07003.

The International Exhibition of Jewelry, Gold, Silverware, Clocks, and Gifts ("BIJORHCA") will be held September 7-12, at Parc des Expositions, Porte de Versailles, Paris. Further information and entrance cards are available from: Pierre Wagner and Caline Thomas, International Trade Exhibitions in France, Inc., 8 West 40th St., New York, NY 10018; (212) 869-1720.

You are cordially invited to attend GIA GemFest '84, a program of seminars specifically designed to increase your jewelry sales ability and gem knowledge, to be held August 21 and 22 at GIA Santa Monica. Please call GemFest at (213) 829-2991 for further information.

Figure 1. Schuetz award-winning bracelet design by Sekikazu G. Nakakura.

