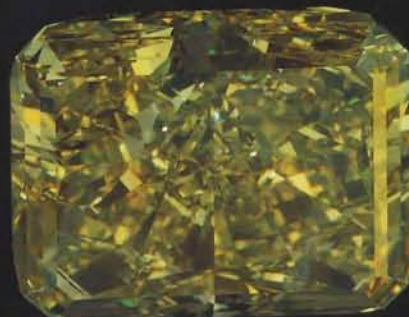


GEMS & GEMOLOGY

VOLUME XXXII

SPRING 1996



THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE GEMOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

GEMS & GEMOLOGY

SPRING 1996

VOLUME 32 NO. 1

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ABOUT THE COVER: Part II of the two-part series on the history of diamond sources in Africa continues to review discoveries in specific countries, and it explores the impact that activities on this continent have had on diamond geology, mining, and production worldwide. Although Africa's long dominance in world diamond production has diminished in recent decades, its steady output and large reserves ensure that it will remain the world's most important diamond-producing region. Certainly, African sources continue to produce a spectacular assortment of large, fine stones, like those shown here (clockwise from top left): a 60.03 ct cushion cut; an approximately 50 ct radiant cut, courtesy of Shaer and Spector; a 47.74 ct octahedron; a 20.31 ct heart shape, courtesy of Harry Winston Inc.; an 18.66 ct oval, courtesy of E. Schreiber Inc.; a 53.3 ct rough; and a 30.06 ct pear shape, courtesy of Julius Klein. The 27.43 ct radiant cut in the center is courtesy of Harry Winston Inc. The platinum bracelet contains 10.19 ct of diamonds and is courtesy of Kwiat Inc.

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Color separations for *Gems & Gemology* are by Effective Graphics, Compton, CA. Printing is by Cadmus Journal Services, Easton, MD.

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Please address all inquiries regarding subscriptions and the purchase of single copies or back issues to the Subscriptions Department.

To obtain a Japanese translation of *Gems & Gemology*, contact the Association of Japan Gem Trust, Okachimachi Cy Bldg., 5-15-14 Ueno, Taito-ku, Tokyo 110, Japan. Our Canadian goods and service registration number is 126142892RT.

**MANUSCRIPT
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Gems & Gemology welcomes the submission of articles on all aspects of the field. Please see the Suggestions for Authors in the Spring 1995 issue of the journal, or contact the editor for a copy. Letters on articles published in *Gems & Gemology* and other relevant matters are also welcome.

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Gems & Gemology is published quarterly by the Gemological Institute of America, a nonprofit educational organization for the jewelry industry, 1660 Stewart Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404.

Postmaster: Return undeliverable copies of *Gems & Gemology* to 1660 Stewart Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404.

Any opinions expressed in signed articles are understood to be the opinions of the authors and not of the publishers.



THE QUINTESSENTIAL GEMOLOGIST

ROBERT C. KAMMERLING

1947–1996

Robert C. Kammerling died suddenly and unexpectedly the morning of January 7, 1996. Bob had worked at GIA for 15 years, rising through the ranks to become Vice President for Research and Development of the GIA Gem Trade Laboratory. He had also poured his considerable intellect and prodigious work ethic into *Gems & Gemology*. He most recently served as senior editor of both the Gem Trade Lab Notes and Gem News sections, and he was one of the journal's most important contributors. Articles that he co-authored won awards in the *Gems & Gemology* Most Valuable Article competition every year for the last seven, and two of his articles won national awards for scientific writing. The loss to GIA and the journal is immeasurable.

For this editor, Bob was a friend who is deeply missed. Although not always the easiest person to work with, he was always brilliant, energetic, and extremely clever. No task was too hard, and no challenge too great. More importantly, he was intensely loyal to the G&G staff and, especially, to the vision we shared of what the journal should be: the source of accurate and useful information to gemologists in the trenches, the ones buying, selling, and appraising stones.

A native of the Chicago suburb of Oak Park and a graduate of the University of Illinois, Bob Kammerling worked and traveled extensively in Africa and Europe before he arrived at GIA's Santa Monica campus as a student in 1980. Hired as an instructor by now-President Bill Boyajian, Bob worked tirelessly to hone his skills as a gemologist, first in the classroom and later in such projects as revising GIA's A and B charts and writing (with Boyajian) the well-known *Gem Identification Laboratory Manual*. He rapidly distinguished himself as a researcher, showing a keen ability to focus on the most pressing issues facing the practicing gemologist. He participated in some of the earliest research on the treatment and identification of blue diffusion-treated sapphires, on the fracture filling of emeralds with synthetic polymers such as Opticon, and on filled diamonds. His latest contribution on filled diamonds, the identification chart and accompanying article that he co-authored with Shane McClure, won first place as the Most Valuable Article *Gems & Gemology* published in 1995; the chart has just been translated into Chinese and Korean.

But research to Bob was more than just reading articles and conducting laboratory experiments. He had a passion for gem localities that took him to some of the world's remotest areas—in Vietnam, Myanmar, and Egypt, to name a few. He always returned with reams of information and dozens of fine photos for the gemological literature. Sometimes his role was behind-the-scenes: When we needed additional shells and pearls for the Summer 1995 piece on pearling in Baja California, Bob jumped on a plane to Mexico, found the needed items (plus some new information), and brought them back in the space of a few days.

While gemology is a unique blend of both art and science, gemologists play a fundamentally moral role in our industry and in society as a whole. They seek to tell the truth about gems and, thus, preserve the integrity of these precious products. Bob Kammerling epitomized this principle. He used his special skills to find creative solutions to problems that threatened the industry. While he recognized that complex problems often require complex solutions, he felt that his—and GIA's—primary responsibility was to convert those solutions into tests that could be easily learned and applied by the jeweler/gemologist. To this end, he worked closely with both GIA Research and the GIA Gem Trade Laboratory, as well as with other laboratories in Europe and Asia. As a result, Bob has left a legacy to gemology that is enduring—a body of knowledge in diamonds and colored stones that is used daily in laboratories and jewelry stores all over the world. And he has left a team of gemologists and other researchers with the drive and skill to continue the research that he pursued so passionately.

Bob is survived by his daughter Loressa, his parents Dr. and Mrs. Erwin Kammerling, and a brother and a sister. To honor his memory and especially his contribution to gemology, *Gems & Gemology* is dedicating the Winter 1996 issue to Bob Kammerling. We hope to fill that issue with the types of articles that he thought most important, short papers on topics related to applied gemology: identification techniques, gem treatments, new natural or synthetic gem materials, and new localities. If you are interested in contributing to this issue (all papers must go through the standard review process), please contact me for further information. Join us in continuing the tradition for excellence in information that is Bob's gift to the field he so loved.

Alice S. Keller, Editor

