

FACETS

OF JEWELS BY DESIGN

a periodic newsletter for clients of Llyn L. Strelau JEWELS BY DESIGN Ltd.

I took a number of courses in 2002 which sometimes kept me away from Our House. Our last newsletter highlighted MATRIX, a valuable 21st century tool for design creation. At the other end of the chronological spectrum I attended the *23rd Annual Conference for Antique and Period Jewellery* in New York. This, my second experience at Jewellery Camp as it is fondly known to participants, is a week of total immersion with professionals, dedicated amateurs and collectors who share a fascination for jewellery and gemstones in general and antique jewellery in particular.

This year, the world-class faculty included the CEO of Tiffany and Co. speaking about designer Paloma Picasso and a 'forensic' gemologist whose specialty is the secret stories that lurk behind a piece of jewellery. He has used his skills to repair a genuine Faberge Easter egg and to prove that a medieval crown was in fact new, and created by a skilled forger.

A feisty New York antique jewellery dealer presented my favorite workshop. He provided a treasure trove of (mostly) genuine antique jewels and gave us the challenge of examining each piece and deciding if it was indeed the real thing. In the process we learned some of the finer points of authenticating a piece of jewellery.

There were representatives from both Christie's and Sotheby's auction houses, university and museum academics and dealers in antique-cut diamonds, pearls and jewellery all with years of knowledge to share. Dealer's Night provided an opportunity for us to examine and purchase pieces from the collections of nearly 30 dealers in fine antiques. The cameo shown here is one piece that I purchased for the shop's inventory.

Now, when our clients bring in a piece of jewellery, purchased or inherited we can explore these questions: Is it just old, an antique, a reproduction or a marriage of several pieces? Are the gemstones genuine? How valuable is it? If it is showing its age, how can it be repaired or restored without damage?

Let JEWELS BY DESIGN shop the world at the Tucson Gemfair for that gemstone you have always wanted. Please phone Llyn at 228-0644 or email designer@jewelsbydesign.com before his flight on February 4.



19th c. Carved Limestone Cameo

Many old pieces of jewellery have been repaired or modified during their lives. Examination of the cutting style of the gemstones, the construction methods and the type of clasps all have stories to tell. Sadly, a piece may have reached the end of its life in the current setting. The gemstones may be better served by being reset in a new design. Other jewels can be mounted in shadowbox frames or bell jars for display, a piece of art preserving the original mountings. A replica of jewellery with sentimental significance could be made for other members of your family. We have done this with family crest rings, necklaces and other pieces.

While Jewels by Design currently carries only a small stock of antique pieces, this facet of the jewellery world holds great fascination. As well as providing design inspiration, antique pieces can complement modern jewellery in the same way that antique furniture sparks modern interior design. If you don't have an inheritance of antique jewels, you still may want some period pieces in your collection. Their historic and sentimental appeal make them perfect gifts, giving the message of permanency for a special occasion. My relationship with the faculty and other participants at Jewellery Camp is an invaluable resource that I can reach out to for more information or to find a piece to purchase. Jewels by Design also offers a consignment service for clients who wish to sell a piece of jewellery that needs a new home. Check the shop often to see what is in stock!



BAYOT HEER scores again! This diamond ring was a winner in the recent Canadian Jeweller Magazine, *Buyer's Choice* Competition.

Bayot's streamlined ring suspends a ½ ct. diamond above a highly-polished concave white gold mirror which reflects the entire stone. The diamond is also a winner, a new cut called the *Altair Star*. Instead of the typical 58 facets this stone is fashioned with 97 individual facets and perfect proportions to provide stunning brilliance and dispersion. It weighs 0.52 ct., and is VVS1 clarity and G colour.

Another new ring designed by Bayot showcases an incredibly beautiful 1.05 carat princess-cut ruby. The

square bezel is held above an inner band by double rails which are in turn supported by a graduated series of square rods with small diamonds set in the ends.

WHAT'S NEW!

To augment the jewellery designs created in our workshop we also showcase jewellery lines that complement our own work. We carry a choice selection of fine Italian and German-made chains and neckpiece for wearing alone or to enhance one of our custom pendants. We have an interesting collection of chain bracelets, bangles and simple earrings that are perfect for those occasions when a more modest gift is needed. Also from Germany is a line of wedding bands meticulously crafted in titanium, either alone or combined with 18 karat gold or platinum. Two of our suppliers of beautiful faceted gemstones also provide elegant earring mountings for



IN THE LOUPE

Blake Dennill G.G.
 Alberta Gemological Services Ltd. 236-4870
 President of Alberta Jewellers Association



Why do people need a Jewellery Appraisal?

The largest percentage of appraisals is used for insurance purposes. This type of appraisal will state a retail replacement value and will assist the insurance company in calculating premiums. There are many other types of appraisals such as for Probate, Estate Auction, Liquidation, and Asset Value. These types of appraisals will reflect different values depending on their intended use. Some appraisals are used for identification and/or verification of gemstones and their quality and may not include a value.

What are some of the tools used?

A fully equipped appraisal lab should include a high quality microscope, diamond grading light, master diamonds (for colour grading), gram-weight scale and various tools for identification of coloured gemstones. The lab should also contain an extensive library of quality and up to date research books. An appraiser should also receive various trade publications such as *GIA Gems & Gemology Journal* as well as current jewellery magazines. In addition to the extensive list of tools and books a good relationship with jewellery retailers in their city is a must as the retailers can be a valuable source of information when researching current local market trends and accurate retail pricing information.

Our website: www.jewelsbydesign.com is frequently updated for your enjoyment and shopping convenience. Current and back issues of this newsletter **FACETS** are on our website. Please send us your email address. We will direct publications to you via the Internet or

their gems.



New to us is a line of jewellery from the famed Danish designer Jacob Jensen. His bracelets, earrings and rings have clean and modern lines in sterling silver with a two-tone rhodium/ruthenium

finish.

Is marriage in your future? Let one of our sculptural pendants: *Mr. Potato Head Gets Engaged* or *Donald Duck Proposes* be your advocate when you pop the question. The sculptures are crafted in gold with baroque pearls (*baroque* means irregular in shape rather than symmetrical). The pearls in these pendants were not altered or assembled but are a tribute to Mother Nature's sense of humour. Each character carries a tiny diamond engagement ring to light up your fiancée's eyes. If you are already wed let them tell her you would marry her all over again!



Ask us about other unique methods of presentation and packaging to help make a lasting impression on all of