

# FACETS

OF JEWELS BY DESIGN

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

Another year has flown by and now it is “Tucson Time” again. That's right – the sunny desert, palm trees, cactus, margaritas – oops, I mean hours of walking through the gem show aisles being dazzled by every gemstone that you could ever imagine plus many that you can only dream about. Fortunately the Tucson Gem Fair is all of the above and more. The show boasts the largest congregation of gem and mineral dealers anywhere in North America. The sheer value of the merchandise for sale boggles the mind.

Following is just a sampling of the treasures that my suppliers tell me will be available this year in Tucson. Some of these gemstones are being offered for the first time this year, some are from new localities and others simply promise to be especially good value for money.

Africa continues to be a hotbed of new gem discoveries; a real treasure trove. Rubies from Madagascar – similar in appearance to fine Burmese stones – are bright and lively and don't need to be heat treated. Also, from this island off Africa's east coast, comes sapphire in fine blue and fancy colours (*ruby and sapphire are both the mineral corundum. Red corundum is ruby, in any other colour it is considered a form of sapphire. Blue is the most well known, but you can find fancy-coloured sapphires spanning the spectrum*). Pink and yellow sapphires are still popular. Enterprising lapidaries are using extremely high temperatures and precise timing to transform otherwise muddy and dull Madagascan pink stones into bright orange and orange-pink gems. On the cooler side, purples, in shades resembling amethyst and tanzanite (but with the durability of sapphire) are found here as well.

Speaking of tanzanite, this could be the best year to buy one of these velvety, bluish purple gemstones. According to recent reports, the prices are down significantly for rich colours and fine qualities.

Mozambique and Tanzania are a new source of good quality and well-priced aquamarine. In larger sizes, these sea-blue gems are coolly elegant. Many gem dealers are buzzing over a new find of canary yellow tourmaline from Malawi (a small country straddling the borders of

Mozambique and Tanzania). It is so new that they don't even know how large the deposit is. Another recent find of tourmaline is reported from the *Edoukou Mine* in Nigeria. Dubbed 'indigo' or 'Blue Glacier' tourmaline, they are reminiscent of the rare Paraiba tourmaline from Brazil. This material ranges from blue-violet to amethyst colour. When heat-treated, aquamarine and mint-green colours are produced.

Pearls of all shapes, colours and sizes continue to be offered. High-quality Chinese freshwater pearls come in white but also in a wide range of lustrous natural pastel colours of pink, apricot, peach, mauve, purple, copper and silver. This will still be a good year to buy South Sea pearls, especially from Tahiti and the Cook Islands. Prices are somewhat lower as the demand is lagging slightly behind increased production. They are wonderful for earrings, rings and pendants but even better is a whole necklace of them. Black strands are classic but growing in popularity is multi-coloured strands. These display the full range of shades from chocolate, copper and gold to silver, pewter, indigo and pistachio. Their subtle shading provides a versatile compliment for your entire wardrobe.

As you can well imagine, trying to make sense of the overwhelming variety and choice at a trade show of this scope can be very difficult. I have found that my best strategy is to shop with a list of my client's requests (and sometimes my own samples for reference) in hand. Thus, while concentrating on finding these specific items, the new and unusual can be spotted at the same time.

**I would be pleased to search 'the world at Tucson' on your behalf and find the gemstone of your heart's desire. Call or come into Jewels By Design to discuss your request prior to my departure bright and early on February 5th.** – Llyn Strelau



An assortment of natural colour south sea pearls

TUCSON 2002

It has been almost 8 months since we took possession of our new home at 1040 5th Avenue SW and nearly 5 since we finished most of the renovations and moved in. Those of you who have been in to see our new location on the west end of downtown have been as delighted with the transformation as we are. If you haven't had the opportunity to drop in, we look forward to your visit. We have good parking right behind the shop, or if you are downtown you can take the central LRT line to the western terminus and walk two short blocks north to our door. If you need a hand planning the easiest route to take give us a call.

The renovation took a lot of work and energy but the end result was worth it. A lot of the expense went to the less visible

mechanical things like a new roof, windows, plumbing and heating and electrical systems. The real fun was designing fixtures and decorating in the simple and practical style that compliments the original Arts & Crafts

architecture of the building while adding a 21st century flare. The deep and dramatic colour scheme and



The upstairs workshop

state-of-the-art fibre optic lighting system sets the jewellery off superbly. Our goldsmiths are happily ensconced on the second floor with natural light flooding in from all four compass points and storage and work areas built to suit.

We have not had a formal 'grand' opening yet. Somehow the combination of the flurry of the renovation, the terrible tragedy of September 11 and then the mad rush through to Christmas has left little energy to plan a party on the scale that our new location deserves. So, keep your eye on your mailbox, and look for our big bash in the spring.



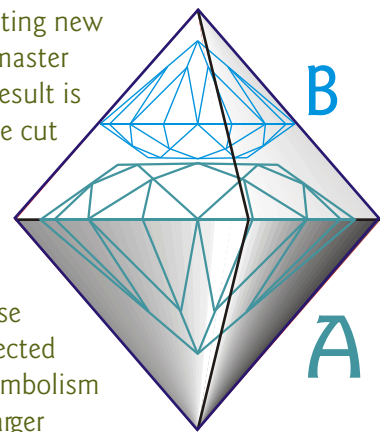
Our new show room

## WHAT'S NEW!

### TWO FOR ETERNITY

Sirius Diamonds Ltd., (cutters of the Bear Canadian diamonds – the first to out of the Ekati Mine in the Northwest Territories) have announced an exciting new concept. When a diamond master cuts a rough diamond, the result is two diamonds: a larger stone cut from the bottom of the crystal and a smaller one from the top of the crystal. To be marketed under the "Two for Eternity" name, these two finished but once connected diamonds provide perfect symbolism for wedding jewellery. The larger "A" stone for "her" engagement ring and the smaller "B" stone for "his" wedding band. The romantic possibilities of these d-as-one and forever-as-one diamonds are

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band. create endless

## IN THE LOUPE

Blake Dennill of Alberta Gemological Services

As you will know from our moving mail-out, Jewels By Design is pleased to welcome Blake Dennill and Alberta Gemological Services to our new location.

Blake has practiced the art and science of gemology and appraisal for 12 years. He took his initial training with the Gemological Institute of America and has continued to upgrade his skills and knowledge since. He is near completion of the Master Valuer program which is the last step in qualifying for The

Canadian Jewellers Association Accredited Appraiser certification.

If you have jewellery or gemstones that need to be valued, call Blake at 236-4870 for an appointment.

In future newsletters Blake will write this column called "In the Loupe" devoted to a discussion of the wonderful world of gems and minerals and the craft of gemology.



"Mountains and gems find perfection from transparency and beautiful colours. To them belong the precious stones we so desire: carnelian, jasper, emerald and similar gems. There should be nothing comparable and more beautiful than these." Plato, Phaedo, c. 400 BC

