

## ARTS OF LAPIDARISTS IN SPECIAL EXHIBIT

FOR THE THIRD successive year the "rock hounds" of the Chicago area are bringing their show to the Museum. "Rock hounds" is the vernacular name for the amateur lapidarists who go far afield to collect raw gem material and then spend many hours at night for weeks at a stretch on their avocation of cutting and polishing the stones and fashioning them into various objects of art and jewelry. Their products often rival those of professional workers in this craft.

Opening June 6, the Third Annual Amateur Handcrafted Gem and Jewelry Competitive Exhibition, sponsored by the Chicago Lapidary Club, will present its display of prize-winning creations in Stanley Field Hall of the Museum. This special exhibit will continue through June 30.

### TWO INNOVATIONS

Some of the exhibits in this year's show represent the debut of the amateur gem enthusiasts into two new fields of endeavor—enameling on precious metals and cutting faceted gems. Hitherto their cutting operations were confined to cabochon cuts and polished slabs. Three types of faceting are represented—the type labeled "brilliant," which is primarily applied to diamonds, and the "emerald" and "step" cuts, both usually employed in preparing emeralds. The step cut, most complex of the three, has been applied on show pieces of topaz of several varieties—clear, Texas or sky-blue, yellow, and brown. The faceted pieces are mounted, or ready for mounting, in jewelry.

The eight other classifications of exhibits, continued from the setup established at the previous shows, are: Individual gems (cut stones without settings, single entries); specific gem collections (all of one kind of stone); general gem collections (different kinds of stones assembled together); individual jewelry pieces (single entries); jewelry sets (matching pieces made to be worn together); jewelry collections; polished slab collections; and individual pieces (artistic and utilitarian objects such as bookends carved from blocks of various stones). Individual items entered have a wide range. The examples of gem cutting embrace more than a hundred different kinds of precious and semiprecious stones and the fabricated objects in which the gems are mounted in gold and silver include rings, brooches, necklaces, pendants, bracelets, earrings, and tie-clasps. One of the more elaborate entries is a full set of table silverware with jeweled handles of polished agate.

For this year's show, 146 persons participated in the contest, with a total of 226 entries that, because some single entries include up to 100 individual stones, aggregate approximately 500 individual items. This, like the other contests of the Chicago Lapi-

dary Club, was open to amateur lapidarists throughout the region within a 100-mile radius of Chicago and was not limited to the membership of the sponsoring club. Other clubs co-operated, and persons who are not members of any clubs were welcomed.

### NUMEROUS AWARDS

The practice of past years of classifying contestants into two principal groups was again followed. Those with experience of less than two years form a group labeled "novices," while those with more than two years in the craft are designated as "advanced lapidarists." There are ten divisions in each of these classifications. Blue, red, and yellow ribbons for each division of each group are awarded. First prize in each group is a gold-plated medal. For the display deemed by the judges as "best in the show" a jeweled medal is awarded.

The exhibits in this year's show represent a total value estimated at about \$175,000. After the close of the display in the Museum, they will be shown for three weeks in the State Street store of C. D. Peacock and Company, jewelers.

Committee chairman of the 1953 exhibition is Lyman Carpenter, an engineer for the Commonwealth Edison Company. Joseph C. Arey, an engineer for the Sanitary District of Chicago, is president of the Chicago Lapidary Club. The club has moved from its former headquarters at Grand Crossing Park field house to the field house at Gage Park, 55th Street and Western Avenue, where shop facilities are available to its members for the practice of their craft. The use of machinery and tools in several other small parks of the Chicago Park District is likewise extended to members of this and other clubs and to nonaffiliated amateur lapidarists.

## NEW MEMBERS

The following persons became Museum Members from April 16 to May 15:

### Life Members

Edward Alexander, George A. Bates

### Non-Resident Life Members

Mrs. Robert H. Murray

### Associate Members

J. L. Holloway, E. J. Knudtson, Chester G. Moore, Mrs. Charles W. Schonne, Lyman M. Simpson, John A. Stolp

### Annual Members

Robert C. Becherer, Edward J. Bradley, W. A. Brown, Jr., Dr. Harley E. Cluxton, Jr., Boughton Cobb, Bruce Cumming, Bernard Echt, Henry K. Gardner, Donald F. Grace, Otto Greiner, Merrill A. Grogel, F. H. Hammurabi, James C. Hemphill, Robert M. Lawton, Stanley W. Marion, Benjamin H. Marshall, George A. Ranney, Jr., Mrs. William H. Rentschler, Alfred M. Rogers, Donald D. Rogers, Gordon E. Sergeant, Dr. Frederick Steigmann, Jules Urbain, Jr.

## BOARD HONORS SCIENTIST, FOUR CONTRIBUTORS

In recognition of his eminent service to science, Professor H. O. Beyer of Manila was elected an Honorary Member of the Museum at the May 18th meeting of the Board of Trustees. This is an honor that has been accorded to only eight other persons in the history of the Museum. Professor Beyer has won international acclaim as the outstanding authority on the ethnology and archaeology of the Philippine Islands. He has been professor of anthropology at the University of the Philippines since 1923 and is noted for his conduct of the most complete archaeological survey ever made in the islands. He is recognized also as a foremost scholar in the archaeology and ethnology of other island-groups in the Pacific. At Manila he has one of the world's most extensive and significant collections in the field of Pacific island research.

To the roll of Contributors, the special membership class for persons whose gifts to the Museum of money or materials range from \$1,000 to \$100,000, the Trustees added the names of four Chicagoans, two of them posthumously. The new Contributors are: Dr. Alfred E. Emerson, a professor of zoology at the University of Chicago, in recognition of his gift of an important collection of termites for research; Sterling Morton, for a contribution of securities; the late Leopold E. Block, a former Trustee, for a bequest of securities; and the late J. Edward Maass, for a bequest of money.

### Museum Auditor Leaves For Business Post

William A. Bender, Auditor of the Museum, resigned, effective May 15, to accept a position as business manager of Honey Bear Farm near Genoa City, Wisconsin, a few miles beyond the northern border of Illinois. A former dairy farm, it was converted in 1951 into a group of gift and specialty shops and a tearoom by Mrs. Julia Steven Kraft, well known as the operator of Mrs. Steven's candy shops. The farm is now visited by as many as 200,000 tourists and visitors in a year.

Mr. Bender joined the Museum staff in 1947 as Assistant Auditor and was promoted to Auditor the following year.

### A. L. Stebbins Appointed

At its meeting on May 18, the Board of Trustees appointed A. L. Stebbins as Auditor to succeed Mr. Bender. Mr. Stebbins, who was Assistant Auditor, has been a member of the Museum's accounting staff since 1931. Before coming to this institution he had been employed by the Western Electric Company, Standard Oil Company, and Sears Roebuck and Company. He served for some years as a captain in the U. S. Army Reserve.





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