

CHICAGO AMATEUR GEM CRAFTSMEN DISPLAY THEIR CREATIONS

A notable display of gems and jewelry prepared by Chicago amateur craftsmen will be open to the public in Stanley Field Hall of the Museum from June 1 to 30, inclusive. The exhibit, sponsored by the Chicago Lapidary Club, consists of the prize-winning creations entered in that organization's First Annual Amateur Handcrafted Gem and Jewelry Competitive Exhibition. Total value of the exhibited objects is approximately \$150,000.

Objects in the exhibit range from granite

to J. L. Cunningham, chairman of the General Exhibition Committee. It was a woman—Selma Jenner—who spent months searching Chicago's beaches for granite pebbles, which she cut and polished into attractive objects d'art, and so diligently did she pursue this hobby that her entry in the contest, filling nine large boxes, numbered more than 700 specimens. Another contestant—one who specialized in the fabrication of jewelry pieces—was Mrs. Florence Kibbler Renaker, an instructor in the

polished opals, with a value running into thousands of dollars.

PLAN ANNUAL EVENT

This year's exhibit represents the beginning of an ambitious program by the Chicago Lapidary Club. It is proposed to continue these events each year, on an ever-growing scale that eventually may include craftsmen from all over the Middle West. It is also planned to continue annually at the Museum the thirty-day display of the



Photo courtesy Chicago Park District

A PREVIEW OF GEM SHOW

Mrs. Florence Kibbler Renaker, one of Chicago's amateur jewelry craftsmen, examines some of the precious stones and fabricated jewelry pieces submitted for the Chicago Lapidary Club's exhibit which will be open to the public at the Museum from June 1 to 30.



Photo courtesy Chicago Park District

TYPICAL AMATEUR GEM SHOP

Amid scenes like this were made the creations in precious gems and metals to be shown at the Museum in June. Orville McGill (left) is in the automobile business, Jack Best is an engineer, Juanita Parsons is a high-school teacher—but in their spare hours all are gem craftsmen.

pebbles picked up on Chicago beaches and polished into ornamental stones of the highest beauty to precious stones valued in the thousands of dollars. More than 150 amateur craftsmen of Chicago and suburbs participated in the contest. The exhibit represents the best of their work in gem cutting and in the fabrication of brooches, rings, bracelets, necklaces, pendants, tie-clasps, and other jewelry. In their creations the contestants used more than a hundred different kinds of precious and semiprecious stones and gem materials as well as silver and gold. Among the contestants were members of three Chicago lapidary clubs and of classes in lapidary work conducted in five field houses of the Chicago Park District, as well as many persons unattached to any organization.

WOMEN IN TOP RANKS

The contestants represent many and widely varied walks in life. The number of women participating was about equal to the number of men, and their enthusiasm and skill equaled that of the men, according

American Academy of Art, who last year gained wide fame for another exploit of an altogether different nature when, alone, she traveled on a rubber raft the length of the Colorado River and through the Grand Canyon.

The contestants were classified into three groups: novice, intermediate, and advanced lapidary and jewelry craftsmen. The contest and exhibits include nine divisions: (1) individual gems; (2) specific gem collections; (3) general gem collections; (4) polished slab collections; (5) polished specimen collections; (6) individual jewelry; (7) jewelry sets; (8) jewelry collections; and (9) special pieces. Because of this broad range, the ribbons, gold cups, and other trophies awarded reached a total of 98. The prize-winning entries, including multiple collections comprising many pieces, bring the exhibit as presented at the Museum up to several hundred specimens. The enthusiasm with which these craftsmen engage in their hobby is illustrated by Chairman Cunningham himself, whose entries totaled 23, one of which alone included 250 cut and

results. Even this year, with only two months of promotion, interest was stimulated far outside the Chicago area to which the contest was limited and inquiries were received from many persons in other states. Mr. Cunningham expects that within a few years the number of entries will reach several thousand.

TWO SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES TO MEET AT MUSEUM

The American Society of Mammalogists and the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists will be guests of Chicago Natural History Museum during their annual conventions this year. The mammalogists will meet from June 27 to 30, inclusive, and the ichthyologists and herpetologists from June 28 to 30, inclusive. An estimated 250 to 300 members from the United States, Canada, and Mexico will attend the meetings.

The daily sessions consisting of the reading of scientific papers and discussions will be held in the Museum.



1951. "Chicago Amateur Craftsmen Display Their Creations." *Bulletin* 22(6), 3-3.

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