

From

# The Collector

to You...

## Ruby and Sapphire: *The Twin Stones*

We all know that sapphires are blue. But, how many of us are aware that they also come in virtually every color of the rainbow? The gemstone species corundum comes in two color varieties. When it is red, we call it ruby and when it is any other color of the rainbow, it's called sapphire.

Ruby got its name from the word *ruber*, Latin for red. Sapphire is the Greek word for blue. Only since around 1800 have ruby and sapphire been recognized as varieties of corundum. Before that, it was often thought that gemstones of similar colors must be from the same gem species.

Sapphire is the modern birthstone for September while ruby is the birthstone for July.

The hardest gemstone after diamond, corundum takes a brilliant polish and is loved for its rich, intense colors, making it a desirable and wearable gem. Pure corundum is colorless but when small amounts of chemical impurities get mixed in, we get color. Chromium gives ruby its rich red while iron and titanium create blue. Combinations of these three elements and others gives us the additional sapphire colors. One of the most valued colors is *padparadscha*, which is a pinkish-orange named from the Sanskrit word for lotus flower.

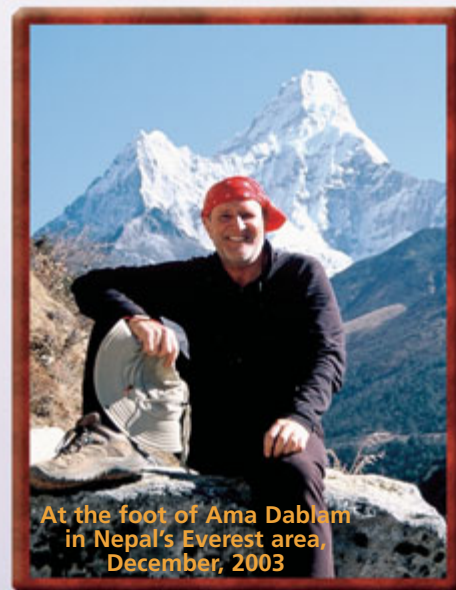
Ruby has been prized since ancient times. The stunning red stone reached the royalty of Egypt and Greece and was a favorite stone of the Romans. Ruby's most important sources are Burma (Myanmar), Thailand, Cambodia, Madagascar and Sri Lanka. Ruby was thought to carry magical

powers that strengthened the heart and restored life. Some feel it is not only a stone of love but one that encompasses the quality of courage or valor.

The chemical elements that create sapphire are more common than those that create ruby, so sapphires are more abundant. Important sources of sapphire are Burma (Myanmar), Australia, Sri Lanka, Madagascar, India (Kashmir) and Thailand. As with most gemstones, sapphire also has its share



of lore. It has been a symbol of wealth and was believed to bring power and immortality to its owner. In the Middle Ages, it was the "bishop's stone" and represented heaven and high spiritual values. The sapphire is a stone which brings lightness and joy to the wearer. It is known as a "stone of prosperity", sustaining the gifts of life, eliminating frustration and fulfilling the dreams and desires of the consciousness.



At the foot of Ama Dablam  
in Nepal's Everest area,  
December, 2003

### Richard Hughes

The Collector is blessed with an expert staff second to none. In this issue we profile The Collector/Pala International's web master, Richard Hughes.

Mr. Hughes is one of the world's foremost authorities on ruby and sapphire. His latest book, *Ruby & Sapphire*, became an instant classic upon publication in 1997.

Richard has spent close to half his life in Asia. For over ten years, he served as executive vice-president of Bangkok's Asian Institute of Gemological Sciences. He is also a fellow of the Gemological Association of Great Britain.

Mr. Hughes has traveled to scores of countries in search of precious stones and authored dozens of articles on all aspects of the gem and jewelry trades. Richard's irreverent writing style has attracted a widespread following throughout the world, making him much in demand as both speaker and writer.

Today, Richard makes his home in Fallbrook, CA with his wife, Wimon, and daughter, Billie, where he is web master at [www.palagems.com](http://www.palagems.com), the award-winning web site of The Collector/Pala International. Many of his writings can be found on this web site including his buying guides to colored gemstones. He also has a personal web site, [www.ruby-sapphire.com](http://www.ruby-sapphire.com).

## Designer Spotlight ~ Jose Hess



### *designer, artist, master craftsman*

Jose Hess is a designer, artist and craftsman possessing a talent for creating original, contemporary jewelry that

dazzles with diamonds. He is a master goldsmith and gemologist with a sense of style and quality standards that keep him in the forefront of American jewelry design.

Hess was born in Germany prior to Nazi rule and his family fled to find a new life in Colombia, South America. He became an apprentice to master Viennese jewelers at age 13. It was here that he learned traditional goldsmithing techniques, which he still practices today. After mastering most jewelry making skills, he pursued his dream to live in the United States and moved to New York

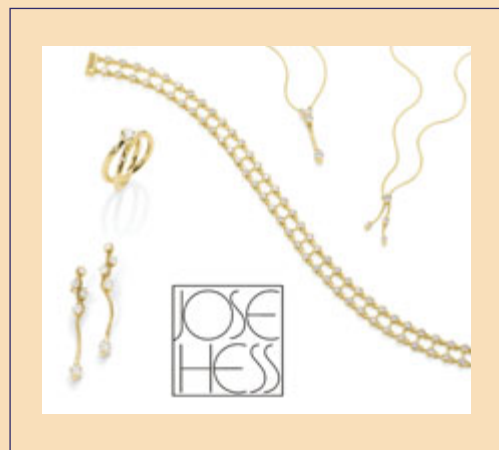
City in 1951. He took jobs in the jewelry district trade shops and then landed a job making models and handmade pieces for renowned designer David Webb.

Five years later, Hess launched his own design business and today oversees a team of bench artisans, model makers and gem experts. The Jose Hess collection is primarily 18 karat gold, embellished with the finest quality diamonds. Each Jose Hess piece is signed and numbered with a certificate of authenticity.

Hess has won numerous jewelry design awards and competitions, including the prestigious DeBeers Diamond International award, and is frequently recognized for his talent. His jewelry has been seen on such celebrities as Demi Moore, Cindy Crawford and Sarah Michelle Gellar.

Jose Hess has been a friend of Bill and Jeanne Larson for over 25

years. They share the love of the art of jewelry making and gemology as well as involvement in many worthwhile jewelry organizations that serve the trade so well. Hess has been a speaker at some of Pala International's events and speaks fondly of his visit to the Pala tourmaline mine. We are proud to carry the Jose Hess collection at The Collector Fine Jewelry.



## Appraiser Notes *by Jo Ellen Cole*

### **To Be or Not to Be, Orange is the Question.**

Among the most prized colors of sapphire is the pinkish-orange *padparadscha* – derived from the Sanskrit word for *lotus flower*. Fine *padparadschas* are exceedingly rare in nature and top stones command prices up to \$20,000 per carat or more.

In the fall of 2001, large numbers of *padparadscha*-colored sapphires appeared in the Thai gem market. They were said to have resulted from a new type of heat treatment. While there is nothing wrong with purchasing heat-treated rubies or sapphires (which are completely stable in color), this was no ordinary heat treatment. Instead, it was found that they owed their colors to an artificial additive, beryllium (Be), introduced during the heat treatment.



Treatments can have a dramatic impact on the value of gems, which is why it is important to buy from someone you can trust, someone with an expert staff like The Collector.

For a professional appraisal or any further information, please contact Jo Ellen Cole, GG., FGA. at 760-758-8315 or [jocole2@cox.net](mailto:jocole2@cox.net)





## Jeanne Hancock Larson

As Executive Director since 1977, Jeanne has built The Collector Fine Jewelry into an internationally recognized organization with its strength in an all female staff. A graduate of Georgetown University with a degree in International Business and graduate degree work at the University of Michigan, Oslo, and the National University of Mexico, Jeanne's expertise in business, marketing, color and design has made The Collector "One of America's Coolest Stores," as noted by InStore Magazine. With her belief that education is the foundation of success, she has mentored her staff in fashion and design while encouraging their continued education in the gemological field. For this, she was awarded the Women's Jewelry Association of America's Award for Excellence in Retail in 1998.

Her belief that leadership is a choice, a responsibility and a way of investing your time and

talent in something you truly care about has led her to combine her personal dedication to the trade with her personal commitment to a worthy cause. To this end, she has given tirelessly to the Gemological Institute of America as founding chair of the Treasured Gifts Council, raising in excess of \$3 million as well as assisting with the founding of the Gem and Jewelry Council. For this, she received the Volunteer of the Year Award presented by the North County Philanthropic Society in 2001 and the Circle of Honor Award from G.I.A. in 2003.

In addition to her professional dedication, she has given tirelessly to various philanthropic organizations in San Diego County. She has been working on the San Diego Zoo's major event, RITZ since 1992 and chaired the event in 1994. She was a founding board member of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation

chapter in 1994 and served on the board for 3 years. She has chaired various committees for the San Diego Symphony and Opera, the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego Natural History Museum, and the Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Museum. She is a new member of Las Patronas, a La Jolla-based philanthropy providing financial assistance to non-profit organizations throughout San Diego County.

Jeanne and her husband, Bill, have two children, Will and Carl, who attend The Bishop's School of which Jeanne is incoming President of the Parent Association as well as a Board of Trustees and the development chair of the Alumni Leadership Council. She chaired the school's auction in 2001 raising in excess of \$400,000 for scholarship and faculty enrichment.



## Sandy Youngdale

Sandy has worked for The Collector since 1987 and was made manager of The Collector's Fallbrook location in 1996. She has been in the retail jewelry industry for over 20 years and has received her Diamond Certificate and Colored Stone Certificate from the Gemological Institute of America. Sandy is a former president and active member of the North County Networking Group, a referral organization in Fallbrook, and also enjoys her position as an ambassador of The Fallbrook Chamber of Commerce. Along with her managerial duties, Sandy also handles the marketing and advertising side of The Collector and is responsible for the beautiful Collector brochure.



## Adoree Comer

Adoree was the manager of the Fallbrook Collector for 18 years and during that time received her Diamond and Colored Stone Certificates from the Gemological Institute of America. Scaling back her schedule and responsibilities, she is now working part-time and brings her flare for decorating to the store making it shine with elegance.



## Clara Dunitz

Clara is a sales associate at The Collector located at the Four Seasons Resort – Aviara. She has spent her entire adult life in retail jewelry, including owning stores in the Midwest for many years. Upon "retiring" to San Diego, she could not keep away from jewelry for very long. And, that is our good fortune. The Collector is happy to have her experience on our sales team. Always with a welcome smile and undeniable spirit, Clara assists clients with building their jewelry wardrobe. She enjoys meeting local and international clientele and says, "When you work with exciting gems and designs, it is not work. It has always been fun."



## Stefanie Fremdling

A graduate gemologist from the Gemological Institute of America in 2001, Stefanie is the newest member of The Collector. She brings experience in writing and computers and enjoys working on marketing pieces, local news releases and the Collector newsletter.



Stefanie's gemological knowledge allows her to identify customers' gemstones and she enjoys helping clients with custom designed settings for use with their stones or choosing from The Collectors large selection of extremely fine and rare gemstones.

## Kate Donovan

A graduate gemologist from the Gemological Institute of America in 1989, Kate is the manager of The Collector located at The Four Seasons Resort – Aviara. Her fashion savvy and insatiable quest for knowledge, has led her to prioritized integrity, awareness and education, since her involvement in the jewelry industry in 1986. Elected by her peers, Kate has held Board positions in various industry organizations for over 10 years. Presently serving as-President, GIA Alumni Association and a board member of the Women's Jewelry Association (WJA) – local San Diego Chapters. "My philosophy has always been to share my enthusiasm and to promote the appreciation of fine jewelry, gemstones and minerals to others... After all, life's not too bad when you get to play with 'pretty things' everyday."

In 2002, Kate was awarded the "American FGA Scholarship" the first time it had ever been offered! She will study correspondence with the prestigious Gemological Association of Great Britain, the oldest gemological institute in the world!





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## A Star Is Born

Star sapphire, or “asteria” is one of the phenomenal varieties of sapphire (extremely unusual or extraordinary occurrence). Inclusions of rutile in the form of needles, known as “silk”, can be thanked for causing the star. To judge the quality of the star, consider its sharpness, whether it’s centered, how straight it is, whether it is complete and has depth appearance. A stone must be cut *en cabochon* for the phenomenon to be visible. Black is a common color, as is the light gray-blue, but star sapphire can vary into deeper, purer colors, most frequently in the blue color range.



When the stone is cut in such a way that light condenses, the three lines represent faith, hope and charity or destiny. The appearance of the star changes when, either the light source or the stone moves, creating a “watching eye” that watches over the wearer. This protective effect was believed to be so powerful that it would persist even after the stone was passed on to another wearer. Even catching a glimpse of a star sapphire was thought to bring good luck to the beholder.

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