

# THE ROCKET

**September 2022**

deadline for next issue  
October 14, 2022

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Roz MacLean – editor

**Future Meetings:** Our monthly meetings are on the fourth Friday of the month.

**Next Meeting:** Friday – September 23 at 7PM  
at Hastings Community Center Hall

This meeting will be a “hybrid meeting.” For those unable to attend in person, please contact our secretary, Crystal, for a zoom link for the meeting.

## Next Meeting Program:

Harley Waterson from the Fraser Valley club will be our guest presenter. He will give a talk on Agates: their formation, various patterns and unique features. There will be visuals and Harley is bringing a number of examples of the various agate types.

## New Business:

There has been some discussion of a tailgate sale – more info at the meeting.

## Program from last Meeting:



It was our annual Wine and snacks evening with a Bottle draw: anything that could fit in a bottle or jar was placed on a numbered square for a draw. There were some interesting entries.



Nickell Aktarian also gave a presentation about the recent provincial Rendezvous. We saw some interesting Rockhounding sites and had a few examples of the finds, like dallasite, fossils, and jasper and flowerstone. Scott Brown has some information in this newsletter on Dallasite.

## Dallasite

Scott Brown

Dallasite is a fantastic and jaw-dropping artistic display of green, black and white colours, but it often includes blue, yellow, red and all the colours on the spectrum. Dallasite is a jasper breccia made up of quartz, altered basalt, epidote and pumpellyite. It is thought to have been formed as pillow lava underwater. Each piece paints a picture in beautiful blocky artwork. No two stones are alike. Many even come with mossy black agate spots in the creamy seams. Some have blue tinges in the quartz and others tinge yellow.

As a breccia, Dallasite comes in many forms but all share a distinct look. It often has green zig-zags in lightning streaks or displays black dots lining a white background. Dallasite truly reflects the colours of the Pacific Northwest.



A sample from Cook Creek cut in our shop.



Samples polished free-form in our shop.

*Editors note: Dallasite is named after Dallas Road, Victoria, British Columbia and is considered the unofficial stone of our capital city, Victoria. Dallasite is the third most important gem material in British Columbia.*

## Linda is thinking about Grab Bags for Our Show

Since we sold all the grab bags we had in storage for the show, we will need to make more for next year. We need to start the process. It is now that we need to begin to make the bags and put a call out for donations of stones for the bags.

Please sort through your collections and see what would be wonderful to receive and find in the grab bags that will be for sale at the show. This fund raiser is such a popular part of our annual show that teachers and people just waiting to attend to get 'their fill'.

The finished bags should be 16 x 20 cm (6 1/4 inch x 7 3/4 inch) and folded over at the top to put a draw string through. I will bring samples at the meeting for those wanting one.

The type of materials needed for the bags is up to you- but the kids like bright colours and texture if possible- fuzzy always goes first!

The rocks and pebbles need to be big enough not to be swallowed, but at the same time not too big as to fit into the bag, fist size is maximum (5cm square is perfect-2 inch x 2 inch).

Of course, no toxic rocks - lead sulfate (galena), bumblebee jasper (arsenic), and the like. We never put obsidian in the bags since it can become chipped and then can cut like a knife to anyone trying to clean up the shards (known to be the first surgeons tools in history).

Members can bring the items for grab bag donations to either the workshop marked for the purpose, or at the meetings. Linda can pick them up if you give her a call. We will have workshop times for the wrapping and then putting together of the bags posted in the future. (there is no charge for these events and it will give you warm and fuzzy feeling towards your club and fellow member!)



# Workshop Hours

If you a member in good standing, have taken the required lapidary workshop training course, you can drop in at the workshops and use the equipment on a first come, first served (shared) basis. Be prepared to work on another project if you need to wait to use a particular piece of equipment,

<b>Lapidary:</b>	Monday	6:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Richard
	Wednesday	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	David
	Thursday	6:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Tim
	Saturday	1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Robert
<b>Silversmithing</b>	Wednesday	9:00am – 12:00 noon	Bob
	Saturday	9:00am – 12:00 noon	Robert

**Our Workshop is open for the new season**

**Come learn to use the equipment**



Thanks Richard, Tim,  
Renee, & Jo

**Come and learn how to do projects like these**



Tim's pendants



photos: Roz



Richard's Labradorite

## Book Reviews

Joyce Wong

You may be sipping your favorite (last?) summer drink in your backyard and the winter seems a long way in the distance. But if you celebrate Christmas, it's never too soon to think about those gifts. There is also nothing more wonderful than to receive a hand-crafted gift any time of the year from those close to you. Here are some books to motivate and get you 'making'.



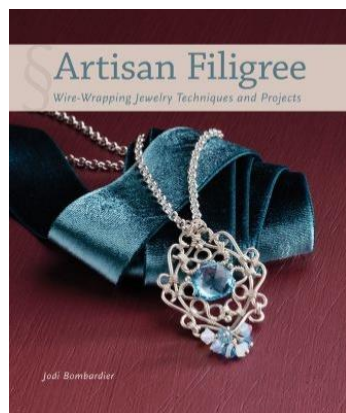
Le Van, Marthe. *30 Minute Earrings: 60 Quick & Creative Projects for Jewelers*. New York: Lark Books, 2010.

This book has projects that are doable and well designed for the most novice in silversmithing. Materials used range from gold, silver to non-traditional and repurposed materials. All the tools you need are available in our Club's silversmithing workshop. So, pick a project and talk to our workshop instructors.

Available at: [Vancouver Public Library](https://vpl.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S38C2334739) (<https://vpl.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S38C2334739>)

[Burnaby Public Library](https://burnaby.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S2C804435) (<https://burnaby.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S2C804435>)

Image of book cover from: <https://www.syndetics.com/index.aspx?isbn=9781600594878&issn=/LC.JPG&client=burnabypl&type=xw12>

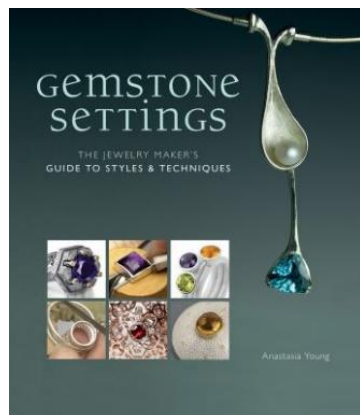


Bombardier, Jodi. *Artisan Filigree: Wire Wrapping Techniques and Projects*. Loveland; Interweave Press, 2013.

I am not usually a fan of wire-wrapped jewelry but in this book, Bombardier showcases bold and simple designs for a wide range of projects (earrings, bracelets and pendants). Using mostly square wire, the projects are rated from simple to advanced. If you have some silversmithing skills, many of the projects can be modified to accommodate a bezel with polished stone.

Available at: [Vancouver Public Library](https://vpl.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S38C3484625) (<https://vpl.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S38C3484625>);

Image of book cover from: <https://www.syndetics.com/index.aspx?isbn=9781596686359&issn=/LC.JPG&client=vancpl&type=xw12>



Young, Anastasia. *Gemstone Settings: the Jewelry Maker's Guide to Styles and Techniques..* Loveland: Interweave, 2012

This book is for those with more advanced silversmithing skills. Young covers various stone setting techniques in each chapter: rub-over, prong, grain, combination, tension, free-form, swivel and more. It does have step-by-step instructions with pictures; however, you will need some experience working with silver to interpret and apply. Beyond the instruction, there is lots of eye-candy with examples of professional projects to spark ideas for your own.

Available at [Vancouver Public Library](https://vpl.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S38C3140326) (<https://vpl.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S38C3140326>)

[Burnaby Public Library](https://burnaby.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S2C880307) (<https://burnaby.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S2C880307>)

Image of book cover from: <https://www.syndetics.com/index.aspx?isbn=9781596686366&issn=/LC.JPG&client=burnabypl&type=xw12>

## Fall Activities

According to our constitution: A Nominating Committee shall be selected at the September regular meeting in the following manner: the President shall appoint one, the Executive Committee shall appoint one, and the club shall select one. It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to select suitable candidates for each of the four (4) Executive Officer positions (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer), chairpersons of the Standing Committees of the club, and/or Special Directors for the coming year, and to provide a list of the candidates selected for publication in the notice of the Annual General Meeting and ensure that each member is informed of the duties of each elected position prior to nomination.

1. The Executive Committee of the club shall consist of those members holding the following positions:
  - Four (4) Executive Officers –President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer
  - Senior Delegate to the Lapidary, Rock and Mineral Society of BC
  - One chairperson convener of each of the following Standing Committees:
    - Field Trips
    - Library
    - Membership
    - Program
    - Publications
    - Publicity
    - Show
    - Social
    - Ways & Means
    - Workshop
  - The following special directors:
    - Delegate to Hastings Centre Board of Directors
    - Director-at Large
    - Historian
    - Sunshine

## DUTIES OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEES, DIRECTORS AND DELEGATES

30. The President shall preside over General meetings of the club and over Executive Committee meetings, and shall be ex-officio member of all club committees with exception to Special Complaints Resolution Committee. The President shall be a signing Officer.
31. The Vice-President shall, in the absence of the President, preside as chairperson of General meetings and at meetings of the Executive Committee, and otherwise assist the President and other Officers in the exercise of their respective duties as may be required. The Vice-President will also be the club's Delegate to the Hastings Community Association's Program Committee. The Vice-President may also serve as a signing Officer in the absence of the President.
32. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of all club funds and shall sign all cheques for the withdrawal of such funds as are required from time to time, along with any one of following; the President, the Secretary or in the absence of the president, the Vice President. In the event the treasurer is unable to sign cheques, the president shall be one of the signers. The Treasurer shall keep accurate records of the receipts and expenditures of club funds and shall report the financial position at each meeting of the club. The Treasurer shall also submit all records to an auditor at the request of a General meeting. The Treasurer shall be a signing Officer.
33. The Secretary or alternate shall attend all meetings of the club and of the Executive Committee and record accurately all minutes and proceedings of every such meeting in a minute book to be provided by the club, shall receive and file all reports, keep or cause to be kept proper books and records in all respects of the business and affairs of the club, and conduct all correspondence of the club, also see clause 10, as directed by the Executive Committee in a prompt and efficient manner. The Secretary shall be signing Officer.
34. The Field Trips Committee shall arrange and supervise field trips for the club, and ensure that first aid equipment is available and, if possible, have present a member who is qualified in level 1 first aid. He/she shall also ensure that all participants on the field trip are members in good standing.
35. The Library Committee shall purchase and catalogue books and periodicals and care for them; shall acquaint



members with titles of such books as are available, supervise the loan and return of books and magazines and collect fines for each overdue month.

36. The Membership Committee Chair shall receive all applications for membership, collect club dues, see that membership cards are issued; maintain attendance records at all meetings, ensure that guests sign the guest book and that they are introduced to those assembled at the meeting; issue copies of the Constitution and Bylaws, Workshop Rules and Regulations of the Hastings Centre Rockhounds, Rockhound's Code of Ethics, Vancouver City Code of Conduct, Respect Policy and Complaint Resolution Procedures, Respect in our Club Orientation Pamphlet and the British Columbia Lapidary Society By-Laws to all members; issue annually a list of the names and addresses of all willing members to each member and to the Lapidary Society; keep the Records of Orientation Completion; keep the club advised of the number of members to date, and report to the Hastings Community Centre on attendance at each General or Special meeting held at the centre.
37. The Program Committee shall arrange for programs for the General meetings, and keep the Executive Committee advised of future program plans.
38. The Publications Committee shall prepare and issue the club's publication, "The Rocket", and such other publications as the Executive Committee may from time to time request. "The Rocket" shall be distributed electronically or pick-up to all interested members of the club, and to certain other clubs and individuals upon request. A copy will be posted in the workshop.
39. The Publicity Committee shall arrange for publicity for the club and the club's Annual Show; shall send news items to appropriate magazines and to affiliated associations; and attend to other special notices. As part of the Publicity Committee a Webmaster shall maintain the Club's website.
40. The Show Committee shall organize and co-ordinate the club's Annual Show, its participation in the Annual BC Gem Show of the Lapidary Society, and any other displays and shows in which the club may decide to participate.
41. The Social Committee shall be responsible for purchasing and serving refreshments for General meetings and for the Annual Club Show and other special functions as requested, as well as for arranging for the club's annual dinner.
42. The Ways & Means Committee shall be responsible for the raffle held at General meetings, including the purchase or receipt of donations of prizes, conduct of the raffle and recording of receipts and expenses, and shall propose special projects to raise money for the club if required from time to time.
43. The Workshop Committee shall be responsible for ensuring that all equipment in the club's workshop is kept in working order; shall purchase new supplies and equipment; shall keep a record of all receipts and expenditures connected with the workshop and report thereon to each General meeting; shall coordinate the arrangement of classes and, together with class instructors, ensure that the rules and regulations governing the use of the workshop are up to date and adhered to.
44. The Director-at-Large shall substitute for any officer of the club unable to attend any meeting (except that in the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall substitute). Any officer of the club unable to attend a General meeting or a meeting of the Executive Committee should advise the Director-at-Large in advance of the meeting in question, and submit any report to be made through the Director-at-Large.
45. The Historian shall keep a journal of club activities; collect pictures, hard copy or soft copy, from members for scrapbooks and a slide collection of slides submitted by members as well as any other material pertaining to the history of the club.
46. The Sunshine Director shall be notified by members of the club of any special circumstances that might require sending "get well" cards, condolences or congratulations to members.
47. The Delegate to The Hastings Community Association's Board of Directors shall attend monthly meetings of that Board to report to it on the activities of the club and to keep the club informed of the activities of the Association.
48. The Delegates to The Lapidary, Rock and Mineral Society of British Columbia, as per BCLS rules, shall act as representatives of the club at meetings of the Lapidary Society, reporting to it the views of our club and reporting to the club on the activities of the Society. In particular, participation by one or more delegates or designate at the Annual General Meeting at Rendezvous is required.

## Rocks in the News

In recent days two famous gemstones have been in the news: the Koh-i-noor and the Star of Africa (cut into Cullinans I and II.) Both are part of the Royal collection of gems and a few people are calling out on Twitter for them to be “returned” to India and Africa. As “Rocks in the News” it seemed worth looking into their stories

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica: “

Some sources note that the first references to the diamond, which later became known as the Koh-i-noor, appeared in Sanskrit and possibly even Mesopotamian texts as early as **3200 BCE**, but this claim is controversial. In contrast, some experts claim that Sultan ‘Alā’-ud-Dīn Khaljī took the jewel in **1304** from the raja of Malwa, India, whose family had owned it for many generations. Other writers have identified the Koh-i-noor with the diamond given to the son of Bābur, the founder of the Mughal dynasty in India, by the raja of Gwalior after the battle of Panipat in 1526. Still others have contended that it came originally from the Kollur mine of the Krishna River and was presented to the Mughal emperor Shāh Jahān in 1656.”



Queen Mary, grandmother of Queen Elizabeth II, wearing Cullinans I and II as a brooch on her chest, III as a pendant on the Coronation Necklace, and IV in the base of her crown below the Koh-i-noor.

According to Time magazine: “When it was mined in what is now modern-day Andhra Pradesh, during the Kakatiyan dynasty of the 12th-14th centuries, it was believed to have been 793 carats uncut. The earliest record of its possession puts it in the hands of Mughals in the 16th century. Then the Persians seized it, and then the Afghans. The Sikh Maharajah, Ranjit Singh, brought it back to India after taking it from Afghan leader Shah Shujah Durrani.”

According to the New York Post: ‘Originally about 186 carats uncut, the Kohinoor, or “Mountain of Light,” was likely mined in South India in the 13th century.’ The New York Post quotes the Smithsonian Magazine as saying “the stone first appears in the written record in 1628, when it formed the glistening head of the so-called “Peacock Throne” of the Mughal Shah Jahan. ...After a century in Mughal hands, the diamond was subsequently captured by the Persian and then Afghan empires. It was finally returned to India in 1813 by the Sikh Maharaja Ranjit Singh.”

**So, to recap:** The Kohinoor may have been known as early as 3200 BCE (but that is controversial), or in the 12,13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, It may have been in possession of the family of the raja of Malwa for generations before it was taken by the Sultan ‘Alā’-ud-Dīn Khaljī, an emperor ruled the Delhi Sultanate in the Indian subcontinent. (He conquered many kingdoms including Malwa in 1305). Babur (from the area of modern-day Uzbekistan) founded the Mughal Empire in 1526. He defeated the Sultan of Delhi and his son may have been given the stone then. But some say the stone was mined in the Kollur mine of the Krishna River and was presented to the Mughal emperor Shāh Jahān in 1656 and was 186 carats uncut.

Now to the rest: In 1739 Persian general Nadir Shah (of Oghuz Turks) conquered Delhi and took possession of the stone and called it **Koh-i-noor**. On his death eight years later, one of his generals, Ahmad Shah Durrani, (regarded as the founder of Afghanistan) got possession. One of his descendants, Shah Shuja Durrani escaped from his brothers in Kabul and brought the stone to Punjab and gave it to Maharaja Ranjit Singh – the founder of the Sikh empire -- in return for being granted asylum 1813.

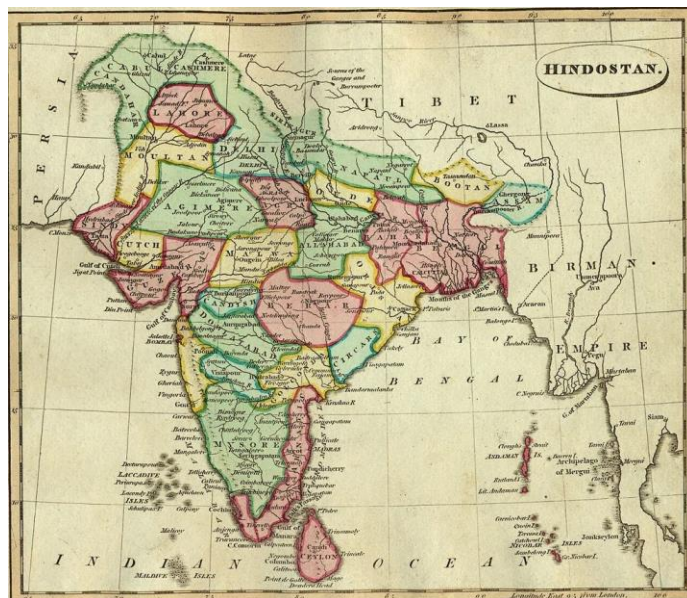
In 1849, his son, 11year old Maharaja of Punjab, signed the peace treaty of Lahore to end the First Anglo-Sikh war, and the Kohinoor passed into British Royal hands as part of the treaty.

In 1852 the stone was displayed in Britain, but people were unimpressed with its appearance. Prince Albert had it to be re-cut as an oval brilliant and its size was reduced to 105 carats. It is currently set in the crown used by the Queen Mother and placed on her coffin at her death.

India, Afghanistan, Iran (formerly Persia) and Pakistan have all claimed the stone should be “returned” to them.



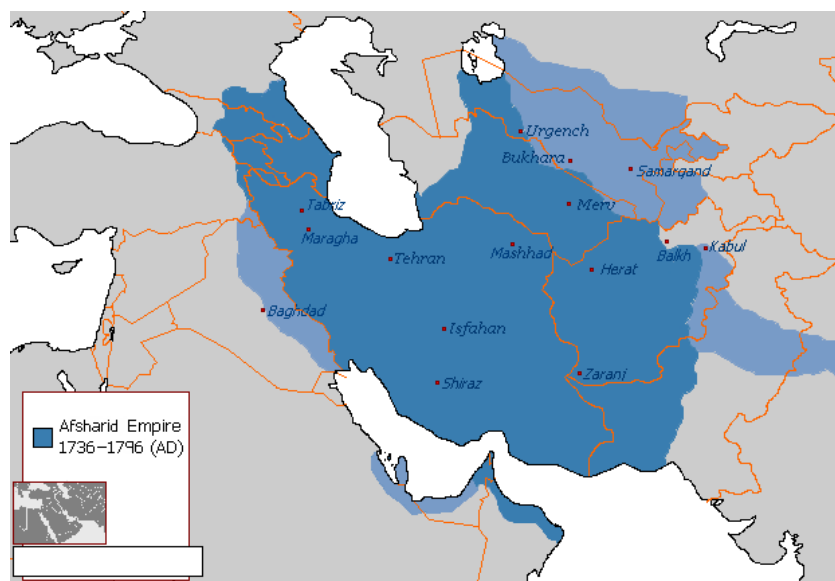
Andhra Pradesh in Red



Malwa in yellow in center of map



Punjab in Red



Persian Empire during time of Nadir Shah



Afghanistan in Green



By contrast, The Star of Africa is a straightforward story. In 1905 the largest gem quality rough diamond ever found (3,106.75 carats) was discovered in South Africa. It was named after the owner of the mine, Thomas Cullinan. It was put on sale in London, but was unsold after two years. In 1907 the Transvaal Colony government bought the Cullinan and presented it to Edward VII of the United Kingdom. He had it cut by Joseph Asscher in Amsterdam. The cutting produced 9 major stones of 1,055.89 carats (211.178 g) in total,<sup>[23]</sup> plus 96 minor brilliants and some unpolished fragments weighing 19.5 carats (3.90 g). The largest is known as the Great Star of Africa or Cullinan I. It is 530.4 carats and is mounted in the head of the Sovereign's Sceptre with Cross. The Second Star of Africa or Cullinan II weighs 317.4 carats and is mounted in the Imperial State Crown. Both are part of the Crown Jewels. The rest of the cutting remained with Asscher as his fee for service. Edward VII purchased Cullinan VI for his wife Queen Alexandra in 1907. The South African government bought the rest and presented some of them to Queen Mary in 1910. Queen Elizabeth II inherited those in 1953.

It is said the other stones were distributed to Louis Botha, then prime minister of South Africa; the diamond merchants Arthur and Alexander Levy, who supervised the cutting of Cullinan; and Jacob Romijn (later Romy), who co-founded the first trade union in the diamond industry.

In the same twitter universe calling for the return of the Kohinoor to India or any of the other claimants, some are saying the Star of Africa should be returned to South Africa.



The Sovereign's Sceptre with Cross  
Cyril Davenport (1848 – 1941),  
Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

## Chrysolite

Chrysolite is the reason for our theme colour this month. From the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it was the traditional birthstone for September. It has also been the stone for Libra. According to *Gems and Gemmology* of Spring 1992, "the term is now in disfavor".

The term appears many times in the Bible in reference to the Breastplate of Aaron and the foundation stones of the New Jerusalem. Many scholars think the gemstones mentioned in the bible were referenced more for the colour than for the specific mineral.

According to Gemdat.org the term dates from the ancient world for a yellowish-green stone, primarily peridot. (See our Newsletter June 2018 for an article on Peridot). Also according to Gemdat.org the term has been recently used as a trade name for chrysoberyl and has also been used for prehnite.

According to GemSelect the term has also applied to topaz. "The term *Oriental chrysolite* was used to refer to yellowish-green sapphire and *Ceylon chrysolite* was used to refer to olive-green tourmaline. There were also terms like *Saxon chrysolite* (greenish-yellow topaz), *Cape chrysolite* (prehnite) and *false chrysolite* (moldavite)."

So if it is the colour you are after for a September birthstone, there are many options.



GemSelect.com Peridot Rough