



NEWSLETTER

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MARCH 1981

THE MARCH MEETING - COURTESY OF MR. JUDD.

As anticipated, Bill Judd conducted an informative and entertaining session on "steam casting" at the last meeting. There's a subject that deserves translation into print as well in the fine Judd style.

During the same meeting, Bill Burns unveiled a gigantic opal for weight guessing; (a practice begun by Ross Stambler). The opal was a Nevada gigantic, reposing in a beaker of liquid. The winner and weight went unrecorded in the hilarity and hustle (or is it bustle.)

And, that ever popular event - the raffle...produced a lot of interest (and a tidy sum for the bank account, we might add).

MEXICAN OPAL - WITH A PERSONAL SLANT

The April meeting features a presentation by Jim Smallwood on the Opal of Mexico. Mexican Opal is of particular nostalgic interest to Jim. It was in Mexico that his interest in Opal was sparked. His talk will cover the diversity of Mexican Opal; shapes, origin, colors - where its' found...including the rare and beautiful Mexican black. There'll be samples galore of the variety at the meeting. Now then; When? Where?

Mark it down...be there!

April 9th, 1981

7:30 PM

....at the California Federal Bldg.
(See the map enclosed)

Join the fun....and bring a friend!

Congratulations, Floyd!

With each carving, Floyd Hahns' craftsmanship and artistry multiplies. So does the recognition --! Floyd is the proud and deserved recipient of the Blue Ribbon Show Award for his carving "two ladies",-- from the Devonshire Downs Mineral Show (California).

A WELL DESERVED SALUTE TO BILL BURNS.....

For twenty years Bill Burns has worked diligently in the building of the California Mineralogical Federation. Recently Bill was honored by being appointed Treasurer. Bill, we tip our hats to you --! Congratulations!

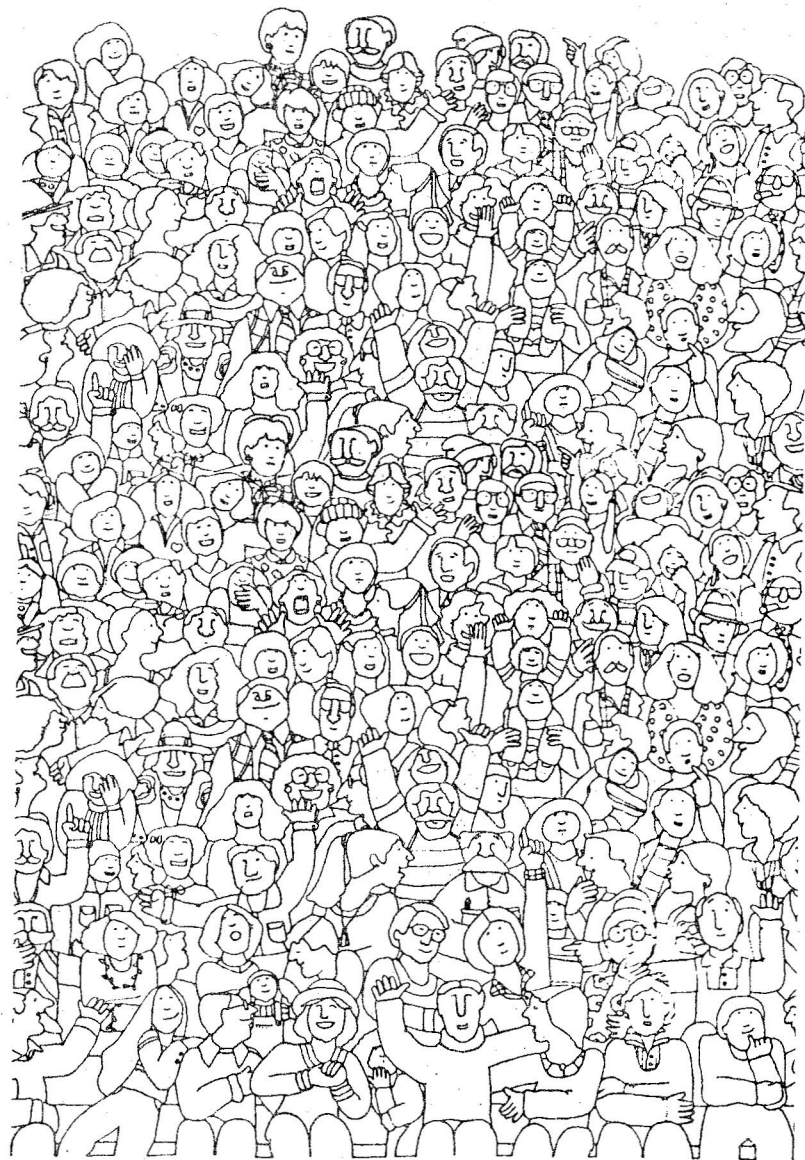
GET YOUR DUES IN!

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN, NEGLECTED
OR OTHERWISE NOT SENT IN YOUR 1981
DUES?

Follow The Crowd...

SEND YOUR CHECK TO THE

AMERICAN OPAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 3895
DOWNEY, CA. 90242



MORE ON ELECTROPLATING.....

As time goes on, techniques expand and improve. Here's an additive to other information you may have.

MINIMUM EQUIPMENT FOR ELECTROPLATING

Electroplating equipment for jewelry does not have to be expensive. In fact I expect to show here that simple, home constructed equipment can be as good as or better than relatively expensive, bought equipment.

First, start with the following table showing voltage and current requirements for various operations applied to one small piece of jewelry with surface of one square inch. A larger piece or several pieces will require more current but the same voltages.

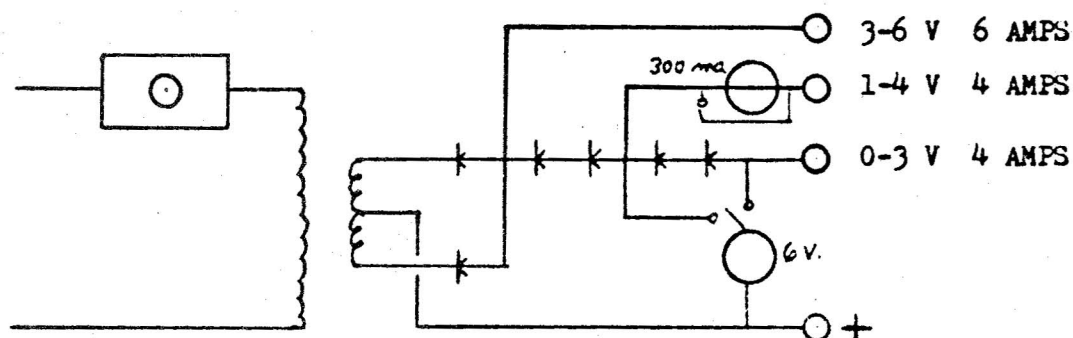
Item	Voltage	Current, Amperes
Electroforming	<u>0.5</u>	about 0.1 (100 ma.)
Electropolishing	<u>2 to 2.5</u>	2 to 3
Electrocleaning	<u>5 to 10</u>	3 to 8
Gold Plating	3 (or more)	about <u>0.05</u> (to 9.1)

In the above table, items that must be measured are underlined. A supply that has 5 or more volts available at 3 (or better, 5) amps will be capable of doing anything. But there must be a voltmeter and a milliammeter capable of reading about 0.05 amps (50 ma) accurately. This meter should not have a full scale range above 0.6 amps (600 ma) because the accuracy would be poor at the low end. 300 ma full range is excellent.

When electrocleaning (very important) the current voltage are both high. But fortunately neither really needs to be measured. Means must be provided to protect the low-range milliammeter when electrocleaning by disconnecting or shorting across it.

The following diagram shows an inexpensive circuit which provides the above features. The circuit requires some explanation. The lamp dimmer is able to control the voltage only over about a two to one range. Alone, it could only drop the voltage from about 5 or 6 volts down to about 3. Lower values are obtained by the use of the diodes, each of which drops the voltage about 0.7 volts, at almost any current. They are rated at 4 amps, but will conduct more for short periods.

With 4 diodes in service the range will become 0 to 3 instead of 3 to 6 volts. With two diodes the range will become 1.5 to 4.5 volts. Note that in the highest voltage range only the main, rectifying diodes are in the circuit, so that the circuit can deliver 8 amps, provided the transformer is not overloaded. That much current is handy (but not necessary) for electrocleaning. The transformer specified would tend to overheat slowly at 8 amps, because it delivers 3 amps at 12 volts or 6 amps at 6 volts.



SIMPLE ELECTROPLATING EQUIPMENT

Materials:

Item	Source	Cost
Transformer, 12 v.C.T., 3 amps (or more)	Radio Shack, etc.	\$ 5.00
Light Dimmer	Any hardware	5.50
6 silicon diodes, 4 amps or more, 25 v. or more (tiny)	Radio Shack, etc.	<3.00
Banana Jacks, etc.		
Meter, D. C. , 6v. or 5 v. (or 10 v.)	Various	6.00 *
Meter, D. C. 300 Ma or 600 Ma.	Various	6.00

* At least one electronics distributor has a wide variety of meters for sale at \$6.00. Sometimes they are available at swap meets.

USE FOR YOUR DUES

TO: AMERICAN OPAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 3895
DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90242

[] Enclosed are my 1981 dues

[] I do not wish to continue my membership

DATE: _____ SIGNATURE _____

ADDRESS _____

*****Newsletter Staff*****

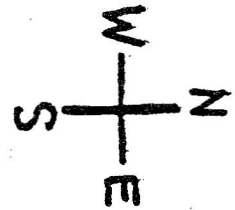
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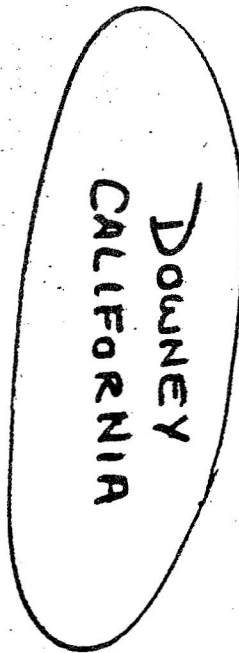
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