

## In Memoriam Grahame Brown (1936–2008)



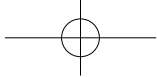
Grahame Brown, distinguished gemmologist and longtime editor of *The Australian Gemmologist*, passed away on January 15, 2008, after a battle with cancer. He was 71.

Although Dr Brown was a practicing dentist until the end of his life, gemmology became a fitting outlet for his remarkable intellect and energy. At the encouragement of a dentistry colleague in Brisbane, he began taking the Gemmological Association of Australia (GAA) diploma courses in 1973. The following year, Dr Brown was awarded the association's diploma with distinction, an accomplishment he repeated with the Gemmological Association of Great Britain in 1975. Numerous other diplomas and professional affiliations would follow.

Dr Brown began teaching for the GAA in Queensland in 1975. Over the next two decades, he held a series of leadership roles within the association, serving as its president from 1989 to 1993. The GAA named him an honorary life member in 1990. Meanwhile, Dr Brown was contributing influential articles to the association's quarterly journal, *The Australian Gemmologist*, for which he served as editor from 1994 until his death.

In addition to operating his own gem identification and appraisal consultancy and teaching for the GAA, Dr Brown taught gem identification at the University of Queensland from 1989 to 1992. He frequently lectured at conferences worldwide, including GIA's Second International Gemmological Symposium in 1991. He was elected to the International Gemmological Conference (IGC) in 1995 and served as Australia's delegate to the CIBJO Congress in 2002 and 2004.

Dr Brown was a prolific author, publishing more than 500 gemmological papers. His Summer 1991 *Gems & Gemology* article on treated Andamooka matrix opal remains the definitive work on the subject. He was a contributing editor to the fifth edition of Robert Webster's *Gems: Their Sources, Descriptions and Identification* in 1994. From 2001 until his death, Dr Brown was also editor of *The NCJV Valuer*, a gem and jewellery appraisal magazine.



Grahame Brown is survived by his wife, Helen, their 3 children, and six grandchildren. He will be missed by his many friends and colleagues throughout the world.

*This tribute was included in a folder given to those attending Grahame's memorial service.*

*Anyone wishing to receive information on the first issue of the Grahame Brown memorial edition of The Australian Gemmologist can contact Hylda Bracewell on [hyldab@gem.org.au](mailto:hyldab@gem.org.au)*

**Further tributes:**

*From Louis Lo, Chairman, GAHK:*

Grahame was a close colleague over many years, loyally supporting our journal with regular contributions that never staled but always sparked a new interest in his readers with a different approach to a classic question or a quirky presentation of something we might never have thought of like elks' teeth, the subject of his last article for us in 2007, co-authored with Bobby Mann, and printed shortly before his death. He was a fine gemmologist; our colleague, our ally - but more than that, our friend. We shall miss him.

*From Bobby Mann, USA:*

The world has lost a great contributing gemmologist. His research and writings will be missed by all. I have lost a long distance friend and colleague who shared my love and interest in ivory through our research and published papers.

*(Elk Canines – An Unusual Source of Ivory by Bobby Mann and Grahame Brown appeared in the Journal of the GAHK, 2007, Vol. XXVIII)*



Grahame in relaxed mode