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LEG.OR Srl - Via San Benedetto, n. 14/34 Z.I. - 36050 Bressanvido (Vicenza) Italy

Tel. 0039 0444 467911 - Fax 0039 0444 660677 - www.leg.or.com - e-mail: info@leg.or.com

'Glow with Gold'

World Gold Council has embarked on a rebranding campaign for gold at a time when "yellow gold" is back in fashion. This can only be good for the gold jewellery industry in this period of economic uncertainty. It is also a time when the jewellery manufacturer has never been so fortunate in terms of the gold materials and manufacturing technology available. This creates considerable scope for the designer to innovate and show how beautiful gold jewellery can be. In this world where fashion plays an increasing role, innovative design is vital for the jewellery industry. But the quality of design must also be matched by the quality of manufacture! Technology can play an important role in both these aspects. World Gold Council is recognising the importance of technology in its international gold jewellery design competition, Gold Virtuosi II. Some prizes will be awarded for excellence in the use of technology as well as design.

8th International Technology Symposium, Vicenza

On the next page, you will find your invitation to attend the 8th International Technology Symposium on Wednesday, 16th January at the Vicenza Fair, Italy. I look forward to welcoming many of you to the Symposium, which takes as its theme "Optimising Manufacturing and Product Quality". I can assure you of some top class speakers. An innovation this time is some *additional Technology Workshops* on various topics at a more basic level to meet the needs of those of you who have asked for additional support on manufacturing technology.

This issue

I am often asked about how one examines gold alloys and jewellery to sort out causes of problems. We metallurgists call this a metallographic examination, usually done on micro-sections under an optical microscope. So I have asked Dieter Ott of FEM in Germany to start this issue off with the leading article on the *metallography of gold and gold alloys*. I know many of you will find it interesting. Another topic that we, surprisingly, have never covered in these pages is the process of stamping. So I am very happy to publish an article on the *production of gold findings by stamping* from a leading expert in this technology.

This issue also contains the excellent report on this year's *Santa Fe Symposium* by Mark Grimwade (and I recommend attendance at next year's Symposium in May 2002). Lastly, I know there is much interest in the industry in the new *strong 24 carat golds*, but there is little known about them and their metallurgy. So I rectify that with an in depth article. I hope it is not too theoretical and that it also contains useful and practical information. Will anyone enter a gold jewellery design in Gold Virtuosi II using one of these strong golds? I wonder!

Chris Corti

Chris Corti
Editor

Note: The Spring 2002 issue will contain the Technology Symposium papers.

TECHNOLOGY AND MANUFACTURING

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