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1st Place, 2022 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin
1st Place, 2022 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

Crown of the Andes

By Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

I started looking for some background material about Emeralds, the May birthstone, for a May newsletter article. I must have mucked up my original Internet search and ended up on the Crown of the Andes page. The Crown of the Andes weighs 4.8 lbs. and is made from 18 – 22 carat gold with **443 Columbian emeralds** (I did find emeralds after all). The Crown is 13.1 inches tall and the diadem (base) is 13 inches in diameter. The largest emerald, known as the “Atahualpa Emerald” weighs 24 carats. Legends say that the Atahualpa Emerald belonged to the last Emperor Atahualpa, the last of the Inca emperors.

The Crown was believed to have been built in stages. The cross and orb at the top are believed to be from the 1500s. The diadem was finished about 1660, and the arches (four of them – see picture insert) were added about 1770. The crown was originally fashioned as the headpiece for a statue of the Virgin Mary in the cathedral of Popayán, Columbia. The Crown was used in many celebrations of Holy Week in the cathedral. In 1914 the *Confraternity of the Immaculate Conception* was granted papal permission to sell the Crown. In 1935 an American syndicate purchased the Crown. The syndicate planned to disassemble the Crown and sell the emeralds and gold. Fortunately, that did not happen. The Crown was intermittently displayed, including in Detroit in 1937 at the unveiling of new Chevrolet models, the 1939 New York World’s Fair, the Royal Ontario Museum in 1959, and from October 2009 to January 2010 at the Indianapolis Museum of Art for an exhibition named Sacred Spain: Art and Belief in the Spanish World. The Crown was acquired by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 2015 and, after restoration, placed on exhibit.



The Internet has many interesting articles about the Crown of the Andes including my favorite slide show that details the restoration of the Crown undertaken by the Metropolitan Museum of Art after it acquired the Crown in December 1995. The slide show is part of an article that can be found at <https://www.metmuseum.org/about-the-met/conservation-and-scientific-research/conservation-stories/2020/crown-of-andes>. If you are even slightly interested in gold work or jewelry repair, I would highly recommend viewing the slide show.

Reference:

Crown of the Andes, New York Metropolitan Museum, <https://www.metmuseum.org/>

Crown of the Andes, Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

Pictures”

Large picture of the Crown of the Andes, Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>, picture in Public Domain

Small picture: photograph by [Marsupium](https://commons.wikimedia.org/), Wikimedia Commons, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/>, Public Domain

Chips and Chatter

See the Chips and Chatter online for color!

May 2023

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Page 1

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Crowns Revisited

By Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

While looking for the Crown background material, one of the things that struck me as strange was that the Crown of the Andes was not just a crown, but it was a Votive crown. And here I thought a crown was just a crown. So, what is a Votive crown? It is a crown, normally fabricated from gold and other precious metals and adorned with precious jewelry that is given, without the intent of recovery or use, to a sacred place – normally a church. Originally, they were intended to be suspended by chains and hung from an altar or shrine, but later they were also used as headpieces for sacred statues. In the case of the Crown of the Andes, it was designed to fit the head of a larger-than-life statue of the Virgin Mary. The Crown would swamp the head of the average adult – the Crown is 13 inches in diameter while, according to Wikipedia, the human head is around 7 to 7.5 inches in diameter.



Coronet of a British Earl

What other types of crowns are there? The base of the Crown of the Andes is referred to as a Diadem. A diadem is, technically, a part of the crown (the base, the arches, and the jewelry would be a diadem). However, a crown without arches is generally referred to as a diadem and often referred to as a circlet. Then there is the Coronet. A coronet is probably the most common crown. It is generally a precious metal ring with ornaments attached. A coronet rarely has arches. The type of coronet that a person wears signifies his/her ranking in the heraldry. In British heraldry, the coronet of the heir apparent is the only coronet with arches. The symbols attached to the base are all prescribed so that one can recognize the standing of an individual, much as the sleeve stripes on the military officer, police officers, cruise ship officers, and airline pilots signify their rank.

Closely related to the coronet is the Tiara. A coronet is generally a circlet, while the tiara is generally open in the back. Before the 18th century, the tiara was worn by both men and women. The name tiara originally referred to the high peaked head-dress of Persian kings. In Greek history, men are often depicted as wearing a metal tiara shaped like leaves or branches. Excluding the Papal Tiara (see below), the tiara became exclusively a women's head-dress ornament in the 18th and later centuries. In the 19th century, the wearing of a tiara was basically limited to noble and titled women. The popularity of the tiara eventually extended to ladies of wealth throughout the world. Today, tiaras remain popular for formal wear, and plastic tiaras have become popular with kids for costume occasions thanks to many Disney movies.



Tiara of Empress Josephine



Papal Crown, aka Papal Tiara of Pope John Paul II

Historically, religious leaders have often been known for their crowns. In the Catholic Church, the Pope sometimes wears a Tiara. However, the Tiara is actually 3 stacked Tiaras and appears more as a Crown than a Tiara; In addition to crowns for religious leaders, there have also been many votive crowns fabricated and used. One such example brings us back full circle to the Crown of the Andes.

Crowns are not unique to Western civilization. The emperors in China, Japan, and other Eastern regions have worn crowns. Some were simple, distinctive hats; others were elegantly crafted headpieces made of gold and precious gems that often made one wonder how they could be worn without crushing the wearer. It seems the more formal the occasion, the larger and more elegant the crown appeared.

Another type of crown is the helmet of a knight or other armored figure. The purpose of this type of crown is to protect the wearer. The crown of a war leader could be some figure designed to scare opponents. The bigger and scarier the war crown, the better. The crown may offer some personal protection, but its real value was its intimidation factor.

Many other items are called crowns. In almost any dictionary you will find a crown define, among other things, as a hat or other headgear. If you get right down to it, a Cowboy Hat could be a cowboy's crown, a baseball cap could be a ball player's crown, and a football helmet could be a football player's crown.

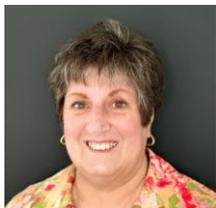
Reference: Various topics, Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

Pictures

Coronet, picture by [Sodacan](#), licensed under [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported](#), Wikimedia Commons, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/>
Tiara, licensed under [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported](#), Wikimedia Commons, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/>
Papal tiara, the image in Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/>

FEDERATION NEWS

By Cheryl Neary, AFMS President - From the May AFMS Newsletter



"Everyone you will ever meet knows something you don't." ~Bill Nye the Science Guy.

I always told the children in my family that every day you should be learning something new. Years ago, I traveled with my younger sister and her three young children to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. It was during their summer break. We visited a few historical places during the day. At night, during dinner, I started asking them questions about what they saw during the day. I was informed that it was summertime and that they did not need to learn anything! I then informed them, no, every day you need to learn something new. A few days later, we were traveling back to New York. I hadn't seen the Pixar movie Cars at that time, and they had a DVD player that I did not know how to work. My nephew helped me set it up, and I got to enjoy the movie. At the end, my one niece said, "Aunt Cheryl - I learned something new today." I gasped- "You did!" She replied beaming, "Yes, you don't know how to use the DVD player."

This little anecdote plus the quote from Bill Nye is very relevant, especially if you are planning on attending your federation's or the AFMS convention. You will meet old colleagues and new acquaintances. Take the time to talk and listen to whomever you meet. Perhaps they know something about lapidary or a fossil, rock, mineral, or gemstone that you had no idea about.

The reason many of you joined a club is that it allows you to meet new people who live or work in the same general area as yourself and share similar interests. Clubs have existed for thousands of years, evidenced by Ancient Greek clubs and associations in Ancient Rome. In the Middle Ages, the Masonic Lodges evolved from the practices and rituals of the Stonemasons' guilds.

One of the reasons you are a club member is to learn something new that you did not know or forgot prior to the meeting. You do this in an environment that not only allows you to learn but to also be social. Many club members find they make lifelong friends through their club. How is this so? At one point they began to talk about something and found they had more in common, and a friendly relationship was born. It is the same at the conventions. You will meet people who become lifelong friends. However, you need to be there to make this happen!

They say the more active you are, the more energy you have throughout the day. So, why not be more active in your club and federation? It is just as good for you physically as it is mentally. There are many positions in each club that need to be filled by the right person. Possibly you are that right person? It could very well be a position in your club that you never thought about performing. For instance, Meet and

Greet - your job to make the members feel welcome. Junior Chair - a perfect opportunity for you to share what you know with ones eager to learn!

Your federation mimics your club's structure as well. They are always looking for volunteers to share their experience and expertise, but as with your club, they are always open to teaching you something new.

If you take the opportunity and time to see the listing of officers on the AFMS website, you will see that many positions are open and eagerly awaiting you to volunteer!

At this time, I would like to thank all the volunteers of the federations and especially for the AFMS board and chairs for their support. The Federation would not run as smoothly without them! The dedication of both Pat LaRue and Donna Moore has been key in our Federation. Communication would not be possible without Linda Jaeger and her great work.

I formally want to thank Richard Jaeger for his years as Ways and Means Chair. He has humbly resigned. I am happy to report that Judy Beck, former president of RMFMS and AFMS has agreed to take on the chair!

Jim Brace-Thompson has also been active in his new position, Public Relations, and I would like to thank him for his continued support of that position. I also appreciate that he recognized the work done by Fran Sick of the EFMLS.

Delane Cox has been promoting New Programs, not an easy task! Start thinking about next year - put a program together that can be shared by all - and teach someone something new!

I also would like to thank the Juniors Committee for the excellent work and progress they have offered the Federation. I am not sure you realize that the Juniors Committee meets monthly via Google Meet, thanks to Dave Wayment. Lora Hall, Joan Stoker, and Dennis Gertenbach are the backbone of the committee, joined by many others. Many of the clubs should be more active with this program! Be the person to initiate a junior's program - you will get support from the AFMS.

Jennifer Haley, our historian, has also done a great job with her position. Additionally, she has offered her talents to the Juniors Program with her fine dragons and mastodons. Not sure what I am talking about? Why don't you send her an email? By the way Jennifer - I want to purchase a mastodon - for my grandson or maybe just for me! Either way, Jennifer has graciously volunteered to support the Juniors Program through the sale of her donated animals!

Everyone on the board and committee chairs has something they can offer you if you take the time to visit them at the conventions. Just as you, too, can teach all of us something new!

Put it on your calendar - learn something new today!

Shows and Activities – Upcoming Show and Activity Dates

Check with the show contact to verify the show status

May 2023

- 6 – 7 MAY, Waco, TX Waco G&MC, Waco Convention Center, www.WacoGemandMinerals.org
- 13 – 14 MAY, San Antonio, TX, Southwest G&MS, Wonderland of Americas Mall, www.swgms.org
- 27 – 28 MAY, Fort Worth, TX, Fort Worth G&MC, Will Rogers Memorial Center, www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org

June 2023

17 – 18 June, Arlington G&MC, Grapevine Convention Center, <https://www.agmc57.org/spotlight-events/show>

July 2023

- 17 – 18 July, Tulsa, OK, Tulsa R&MS, Exchange Center at Expo Square, www.tulsarockandmineralsociety.org

Ref: Rock & Gem Show Dates, <https://www.rockngem.com/ShowDatesFiles/ShowDatesDisplayAll.php?ShowState=ALL>

Ref: January-February 2023 SCFMS Newsletter

Cinco de Mayo

By Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Modified from an article in the May 2022 Chips and Chatter

Cinco de Mayo (May 5th) is a national holiday in Mexico celebrating its independence. **NOT**. Mexico celebrates its independence on September 16. On September 16, 1810, Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla organized a meeting of his congregations to take up arms and fight for Mexico's independence from Spain. The War of Independence lasted from September 16, 1810, until September 27, 1821. The Declaration of Independence of the Mexican Empire was signed on September 28, 1821. Cinco de Mayo celebrates the victory of the Mexican Army (about 4,000 strong) over the French Army in the Battle of Puebla. Many think that this is when Mexico won its independence, but that is not the case. It does celebrate the victory of a small, ragtag Mexican Army (about 4,000 strong) over a larger (6,500 – 8,000 strong), better-equipped French force. The French (Napoleon III) wanted a presence in the Americas and thought that Mexico could be easily taken. In 1861 the French invaded Veracruz and easily drove the government out. The French wanted to destroy the existing government and organized a war to follow and overthrow the government. One of the early battles was fought on May 5, 1861, and is known as the Battle of Puebla. During the 1 day battle, the French lost about 500 men while the Mexican force lost less than 100 soldiers. The French withdrew to Veracruz; they were utterly surprised and devastated by the resistance of the Mexican Army. Two years later the French returned with an army of 30,000 and eventually captured Mexico City. In 1866, facing continuing guerilla resistance and the prospect of intervention from the United States, which was finally over its own civil war, the French started to withdraw. In 1867 the Mexican Army recaptured Mexico City, capturing and executing Maximilian I, the French-installed governor of Mexico. In June of 1867, Benito Juarez returned to Mexico City and established his new government.

Cinco de Mayo is not a major celebration in Mexico. It is not a national holiday; most celebrations are centered in the state of Puebla. In the United States, many contend that we celebrate Cinco de Mayo as a celebration of Mexican culture and heritage, particularly in areas where there is a larger Mexican-American population. However, many will contend that the celebration is pushed by restaurants and bars as an occasion to sell more Mexican foods (tacos, burritos, etc.) and sell even more Margaritas and Mexican-made beers, or just more drinks of any kind. I would hope we would rather be celebrating the Mexican-American culture rather than being led around by the bars and restaurants, but the truth could be in following the money – and the advertising indicates the restaurants and bars have probably won.

VISIT AN AREA CLUB

[Arlington Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX

[Cowtown Gem, Mineral, & Glass Club](#), meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm, CERA 3300 Bryant Irvin Rd. Fort Worth

[Dallas Bead Society](#), meets 1st Saturday of each month at 10:00 am at The Point at CC Young, 4847 W. Lawther Dr., Dallas, TX

[Dallas Gem & Mineral Society](#) meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, American Legion, 10205 Plano Rd, Dallas (next to their shop)

[Dallas Paleontological Society](#), meets the 2nd Wed. of each month at 7:00 pm, Brookhaven College, Building H, 3939 Valley View Lane,

[Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Avenue, Ft. Worth

[Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc.](#), meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 3839 W. Keist Blvd, Dallas,

[Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 1st Thur. of each month at 7:15 PM, Bradfield Recreation Center, 1146 Castle Dr, Garland,

[Wild West Bead Society](#), meets 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm, Wild Beads, 1124 S. Bowen Road, Arlington, TX

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2023

President: Joe Vulk
1st VP, Programs: Carolyn Grady
2nd VP, Field Trips: Julie Wilson
Secretary: Amy Vulk
Treasurer: Ling Shurtz
Editor: Don Shurtz
Contact us by e-mail: don.shurtz@gmail.com or
L.SHURTZ@gmail.com

Minutes of the April 6, 2023 Meeting

President Joe Vulk called the meeting to order at 7:15pm.

Quorum: A quorum was present.

Snacks were provided by Ling, Don, Hatt, and Cheryl. Thanks to all.

Visitors: Mary and Ryan Vickery were visitors at the meeting. They found the club through the Internet and came prepared for the Gem Tree building.

Treasurer's Report: Ling gave the treasurer's report. A motion to accept the report was made by Don and seconded by Cheryl. The motion passed.

Minutes: The Minutes of the February Meeting were published in the April Chips and Chatter. Hatt made a motion to accept the Minutes as published. Ling seconded the motion. The motion passed

Old Business:

Joe collected the Club Direction Questionnaires. He will report the results at a later meeting

Joe led a discussion regarding the compensation of members for items bought for the club. Brenda made a motion that members may request compensation for expenses for the club's benefit. The compensation must be approved by the Club's Executive Board. Don seconded the motion. The motion passed.

New Business:

We discussed the Cinco de Mayo Taco Thursday for the May 4th meeting.

We planned the upcoming March get-together and St. Patrick's Day potluck. Members volunteered to bring items for the dinner as follows:

Brenda	Tomatoes
Cheryl	Onions, Taco shells
Carole L.	Cheese
Carolyn	Taco meet
Hatt	Sweet Tea
Joe	Guacamole, chips
Ling	Soft Taco shells
Don	Bean dip, chips

Presentation: Ling led a hands-on session for Gem Tree fabrication. Each person was invited to build a small (learning) tree using 6 strands of wire, tumbled rocks for leaves and ground cover, and a larger rock to serve as the tree's base. We progressed through the formation of the tree roots, trunk, and branches. Loops were set in the branches as glue bases to hold rocks as leaves. Only one person got the attachment of leaves to the branches stage, but everyone took their tree home to finish.

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

We had the raffle drawing

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Many thanks to Ling and Don for the gem tree construction presentation at our April meeting. Ling demonstrated and Don gave personal assistance to those of us who attempted to construct our own tree. They also generously provided all the materials we needed.

The current cool and sunny (usually) weather we are having now reminds me of the winter weather in Australia. Winter is the best time to fossick for gems and minerals in Australia. You don't have the 110+ degree days nor the ever-present flies of the summer months. Our family made many camping trips to fossick for the then abundant gemstones found in the area north of Alice Springs near the Plenty River "Highway". This was years before there was lodging at the present remote outback refuge called - guess what - Gem Tree.

About 1/3 of our members have turned in their answers to the "Direction" questionnaire. I would like to hear from more of you before I tabulate the responses in a report. If you haven't already turned in your survey, please fill out your answers and give them to me at our 4-May meeting. A copy of the questionnaire was attached to last month's Chips and Chatter.

I'm looking forward to our May meeting which will be a potluck social for Taco Thursday / Cinco de Mayo. See you then.

Joe Vulk

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

MAY MEETING

Our next meeting will be Thursday, May 4th at the Bradfield Recreation Center, 1146 Castle Dr, Garland, TX 75040. The meeting will start at 7:15 and end at 8:45. This will be our Taco Thursday – Cinco de Mayo potluck Dinner. Bring an item to share (see list in Minutes) and be prepared for some fun. For our June meeting, Bob Huntington of the Dallas G&MS will give a presentation about precious coral.

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PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of DALLAS



Meetings

First Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be April 6 at the Bradfield Recreation Center, 1146 Castle Drive, Garland, TX 75040

Membership

Single Adult: \$16.50,
Junior: \$5.00, Family: \$27.50
(Plus badge fee for new members)

PURPOSE

The Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas is organized for charitable and educational purposes to promote interest in the various earth sciences, particularly those hobbies dealing with the art of cutting and polishing gemstones, the science of gems, minerals, and metal crafts, as well as their related fields. Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas is a not-for-profit organization

CHIPS AND CHATTER

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club
c/o 4004 Dublin Rd.
Allen, TX 75002-6526

To

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Our next meeting will be Thursday, April 6, 2023, starting at 7:15

Features

The Crown of the Andes.....	1
Crowns Revisited.....	2
Cinco de Mayo	4

Notices

Shows and Activities	4
Visit an Area Club	4
Copyright Notice	5

Monthly Columns

Club and Meeting Information	1, 5, 6
------------------------------------	---------

Federation News

From the Desk of the [AFMS] President.....	3
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