

TIPS FOR JUDGING LAPIDARY

It helps to have some background in lapidary work; however, if you do not have that experience, consider the following points:

- A. Read the minimum requirements for the class and stick with them.
- B. If you do not have identification references of your own, check with a local library.
- C. Tumble polished specimens:
 - 1. Are they well rounded and smooth?
 - 2. Are they free of cracks and flaws?
 - 3. Is the finish polish smooth and uniform?
- D. Condition of finished specimens:
 - 1. Is the shape of the finished specimen uniform and/or symmetrical?
 - 2. Is specimen free of cracks and flaws?
 - 3. Is the polish uniform across specimen?
 - It may help to hold specimen up to a frosted light bulb and look at its reflection on the surface of the specimen.
- E. Faceted Specimens:
 - 1. Is girdle even around stone?
 - 2. Is table flat and parallel to the girdle?
 - 3. Are facets even in placement around specimen?
 - 4. Are equivalent facets uniform in size and shape?
 - 5. Does the surface have a coating?
 - (In place of a final polish)
- F. If specimen is mounted:
 - 1. Is specimen properly set in mount?
 - 2. Is specimen securely mounted?
 - 3. If held by an adhesive, is it appropriate and out of sight?
 - 4. Is mount finished in an appropriate manner?