

## Series focuses on antique treasures

BY MARY KLEIN  
STAFF WRITER

You've heard of high C and the Seven Seas, but the "four C's" — carat weight, color, clarity and cutting — are what's important when it comes to jewelry and gemstones.

So says James Krol, owner of Birmingham Gemological Services in Birmingham, who will present one of four classes in "Treasures From Yesterday," a series offered by Schoolcraft College in Livonia that can help participants discover antique treasures.

"We talk a lot about how to identify color stones, how to grade them," he said. "It's an important and significant factor in determining value."

The series, 6-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Oct. 18 and 25 and Nov. 1 and 8, will help you identify and evaluate art work, furniture and accessories, and new and antique jewelry. It will meet at the college, Haggerty and Seven Mile. Participants can attend individual sessions or as a series.

Cost is \$30 per seminar, or \$100 for the entire series. For a brochure or to register, call Schoolcraft College at (313) 462-4448.

Krol and Frank Boos, owner of the Frank H. Boos Gallery in Bloomfield Hills, will discuss what's "out there" in the market as well as what items to look for.

"It goes in trends," Boos said. "Things that were very popular a few years ago aren't (popular) today. A good

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example of that is antique pewter, which is sort of out of vogue."

Art deco, on the other hand, is in vogue today.

Boos will lead three of the classes. Topics will be antique furniture; painting and prints; and silver, china and objects d'art. Boos handles appraisals for local, national and international markets. His gallery has been involved with many famous collections.

The biggest misconception is that items always go up in value, Boos said.

"I equate it to a roller coaster. 'Make sure you have an idea (of an item's value) before you do anything with it.'"

Krol will lead the fourth class, on jewelry and gemstones. Antique and period pieces, precious and semi-precious gemstones, and buying jewelry for today and tomorrow will be discussed. Krol will explain how to evaluate what you already have.

"Diamonds come in many different colors. Be aware of the many different stones out there," said Krol, who was selected to travel to Saudi Arabia 10 years ago to establish a gemological

testing laboratory and appraise a vast array of impressive jewelry.

A diamond or piece of jewelry is "typically an emotional purchase," Krol said.

"When you get into buying jewelry you don't want to buy for price. You want to buy what appeals to you."

Krol is a past regional governor of the Accredited Gemologist Association and the International Society of Appraisers, of which he is also past-president of the state chapter. He is a member of the American Society of Appraisers, where he is on the National Gems and Jewelry Committee, and a senior member of the National Association of Jewelry Appraisers.

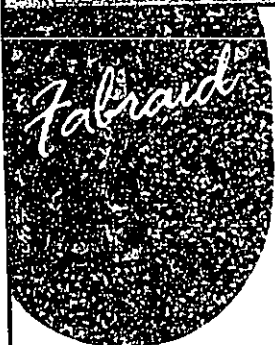
The cut of the stone determines how the light is reflected in it.

Fashion dictates what jewelry is going to be worn — the heavy diamonds of the Victorian era, the silver chains of the 1920s.

"We give an overview of the different time periods."

"Platinum is very, very popular today."

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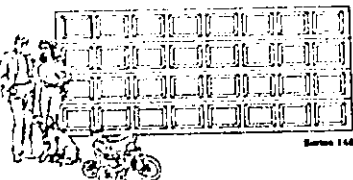
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