



HOUSTON GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

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RECOGNITION OF LAPIDARY EXCELLENCE (R. O. L. E.) PROGRAM

PURPOSE:

To stimulate and improve the lapidary arts of the members of the Houston Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

GOAL:

To encourage each member of the Houston Gem and Mineral Society to improve his or her ability to achieve proficiency in the art of cabochon making.

LEVELS OF ACHIEVEMENT:

Five levels of achievement are recognized. Each level has definite objectives. The expectation for difficulty and use of materials is more demanding as one advances through the levels. Levels of achievement are as follows:

- 1) NOVICE
- 2) APPRENTICE
- 3) PROFESSIONAL
- 4) MASTER
- 5) ARTISAN

NOVICE:

To earn NOVICE status, you must finish two oval stones of the specified sizes and materials listed below.

SIZE	MATERIAL
40 X 30	AGATE
30 X 22	OBSIDIAN



Each stone must receive a score of at least 75 points evaluated according to the table found at the end of this information brochure. **EVERYONE BEGINS AT THE NOVICE LEVEL, REGARDLESS OF LAPIDARY EXPERIENCE!**

APPRENTICE:

To earn APPRENTICE status, you must first pass the NOVICE level and in addition complete six stones of the following sizes and materials. Any size stone can be made from any of the listed materials; however each material and each size must be represented.



SIZE	MATERIAL
24 x 10	agate
14 x 10	obsidian
13 x 18	petrified wood
38mm round	jasper
30mm round	rhodonite
30 x 40 teardrop	serpentine

Each stone must be evaluated and have earned a score of at least 80 points.

PROFESSIONAL:

To earn PROFESSIONAL status, a person must first pass the APPRENTICE status and in addition complete the following 10 stones using the materials listed. Any size stone can be made from any of the listed materials; however each material and each size must be represented.



SIZE	MATERIAL
10 x 8 oval	petrified wood
12 x 10 oval	jasper
16 x 12 oval	rhodonite
dime round	opal
penny	jade
heart	feldspar family
cross	serpentine
keystone	tiger –eye
free form	malachite
square	onyx

Each stone must earn at least 85 points on the R.O.L.E. scale.

MASTER:

To earn MASTER status, you must first pass the PROFESSIONAL level and in addition complete the following 12 cabochons using the materials listed. Any size stone can be made from any of the listed materials; however each material and each shape must be represented. The photo shows the Master level set cut by Ed Clay.



SHAPE / KIND

cat's eye
starstone
doublet
double sided tear
double sided round
double sided square
double sided heart
two free form
three stones of choice

MATERIAL

opal
turquoise
amethyst
garnet
jade
feldspar family
tiger-eye
malachite
onyx
chatoyant stone

ALL stones must be evaluated at a score of 90 or more. Any member reaching the MASTER level automatically becomes a R.O.L.E. Program Committee member and serve as a lifetime judge on a standby basis.

ARTISAN:

To earn ARTISAN status, one must first pass the MASTER level and in addition complete the following 15 stones. Any except those especially identified by material can be made from material of the member's choice.

SHAPE / KIND

Triplet

sphere

inlay

intarsia

fire agate

fire opal

9 stones of the member's choice representing exemplary expertise.

All stones must be evaluated at a score of 95 points or more.

The photos below show cabochons cut by Ed Clay for the various R.O.L.E. levels.



**THE FOLLOWING POINT FORMULA WILL BE USED
FOR EVALUATING ALL SUBMITTED STONES.**

All work is to be done manually (no tumbling or auto capping equipment may be used).

CHOICE OF MATERIAL:

Quality of stone, proper orientation placement of pattern.....15 points

SANDING AND GRINDING:

No flat spots, scratches, sufficient sanding, etc.....25 points

POLISH:

High luster, water glass finish.....30 points

SYMMETRY:

Dome, outline, curvature, etc.....25 points

SIZE:

Accuracy of template size.....05 points

An additional 5 points may be added as a degree of difficulty factor or for a truly outstanding stone. Points at MASTER and ARTISAN level will be awarded more critically.

SUBMITTING CABOCHONS:

ALL STONES SUBMITTED FOR EVALUATION WILL BE JUDGED BY AT LEAST TWO JUDGES.

All cabochons will be submitted to the chairman of the R.O.L.E. Committee. The chairman will code the stone concealing its owner's identity before giving it to the judging committee. The evaluation of a cabochon will be done by a subcommittee of the R.O.L.E. committee. This subcommittee will be a rotating committee made up of Society members, two of whom will remain constant members of the R.O.L.E. Committee and eventually all persons who have earned MASTER level status. The R.O.L.E. Program Committee will staff this judging subcommittee by appointment from the general membership. The rotation will be on a six-month basis..

All cabochons submitted will be on display at a regular meeting of the Society along with committee comments and explanations of the evaluation. None of the material submitted shall be identified without the owner's explicit permission and then only after it has been evaluated and has met the necessary level of acceptance. Any person from any rock club may join the program as long as they follow our sequence of procedure.

Recognition of the attainment of a level of proficiency shall be in the form of a Certificate of Merit and as an attachment to be worn on the name tag of the member. The club shall provide these badges of merit.

In case of a challenge of the judging committee's decision, their decision may be superseded by a decision from the R.O.L.E. Program Committee. Any challenge must be registered within thirty days of the announced evaluation. Also, recognition will be given to participants in the membership roster.

A person appointed by the Committee Chairman shall keep records. Such records will show the date the stone was submitted, the kind of stone, and the score earned. Only stones meeting the requirements of that level will be recorded. Each person in the program will have a duplicate record of his or her own. The records of any individual are open for perusal by that person whenever requested. They will be kept confidential unless the chairman is otherwise requested by the individual of record.

It is especially important for every club member to realize that this primarily is an educational project whose sole purpose is to increase the lapidary skills of club members. It is strictly optional. Any member who does not wish to participate for any reason whatsoever must feel free to refuse without any criticism or commentary from the club or from club members. Club members who are not ready to become involved in making cabochons are still encouraged to participate in the judging of stones. That also is a valuable educational tool if the Houston Gem & Mineral Society is to establish a reputation of proficiency and pride in the knowledge and execution of all facets of lapidary skill. It is hoped that a similar program can be established for faceting, silver work, and perhaps other rock-related arts.

Integrity is a vital part of this program. Our goal must be to improve our own work and help fellow members reach the goals they have for themselves. The Society gains distinction only as each and every member gains distinction. There is no room for petty competition or inequitableness. "A man of integrity will never listen to any plea against conscience," either in evaluating another member's work or in submission of his own stones.

Houston Gem & Mineral Society Lapidary Section Judging Sheet

	Total Points	Points Deducted	Points Scored
CHOICE OF MATERIAL			
Quality of stone, proper Orientation and placement of pattern.....	15 points	_____	_____
SANDING AND GRINDING			
No flat spots, scratches, sufficient sanding, etc	25 points	_____	_____
POLISH			
High luster, water-glass finish	30 points	_____	_____
SYMMETRY			
Dome, outline, curvature, etc	25 points	_____	_____
SIZE			
Accuracy of template size	05 points	_____	_____
		Total	_____

Outline of Stone (for Judge to mark places for reference)
The judge will add comments on back.