The Jewellery Market

John Ainsley

New readers should be aware that buying jewellery at auction provides the choice, not only of modern pieces - much of their stock is of recent origin-but jewellery and styles covering several centuries. I can also certainly advise buying at retail, when the jeweller specialises in secondhand jewellery, and there are some excellent shops around the country. However the average high street jeweller will in the main only provide you with a choice of new jewellery, which is of course restricted to the latest styles. Additionally profit margins for the retailer dealing in new jewellery are necessarily higher, and with the addition of VAT, now at 20%, secondhand prices can be two to two and a half times lower at auction than buying new, and I know of good secondhand jewellers where prices can be at least a third cheaper than buying new. In any event it is what comes along at the time but my advice is to keep an eye on secondhand sales at auction and at retail. And following on from this my advice is never to buy new jewellery. It represents extremely poor value for money and is therefore hardly the way to make prudent use of the personal or family budget. In recent years I have represented several young men seeking to buy engagement rings in my area and in all cases I have been able to point them towards acquiring good sized solitaire diamonds of a carat or a carat and a half for £1,000 - £2,000, when on the high street they would need a magnifying glass to see the stone they would get for that price. £999 is typical for a 0.5ct stone if you are lucky, and they can be much more.

Everyone is aware of how precious metal prices have been rising in recent years, and diamonds continue to go up in price anyway. Two or three years ago I could have bought decent one carat diamond rings for £700-£800 but not anymore. Ignoring the solitaire at **15**, which has a Tiffany attribution and probably above average clarity and colour, the ring at **23** is a good indication of today's auction prices for a good one carat solitaire set in platinum, and at **58** is a typical half carat solitaire at a typical auction price of £377. This would cost probably £999 new on the high street. For those whose budget can stretch further - and it is surprising how much young men are prepared to invest in an engagement ring, there can be little better than the old cut 1.74ct solitaire at **16** and £2,832. This will probably date from the 1900-1930 period - the classic and most desirable period jewellery of all. At the lower top end off the market see the 3.65ct cushion cut solitaire at **2** and just under £10,000 - the best example here for those who could afford it. See also the possibilities at **8**, **20**, **36**, **40** and **74**.

Readers should check these four pages and browse those areas of the market which holds their interest. There is something for everybody. Gold jewellery can easily be checked against the market prices for gold. See page four, which carries recent scrap value tables and use the arithmetic to compare **9**, **11**, **41** or **64** and **65**. For example at **64** the 9ct gold bracelet weighs 24.4 grams and as I write 9ct gold scrap is about £12-13 per gram so the anticipated price range is £293-£320 and it fetched £330. This link in itself is beginning to be 'worth its weight in gold' to users, who can follow the market as it changes. Here you do not need to be a precious metals expert to work out how much the 18ct multi-strand necklace at **11** was likely to fetch. All you need, for speed, is a calculator.

Next to rings, earrings are the next most popular and they first appear at **17,** but we can only guess at their carat weight as being probably 0.75-1ct per stone. As solitaires these are a worthwhile buy, but when the solitaire diamonds get too small, and I would suggest at about 0.5cts per stone they become insignificant and it is much better to buy diamond cluster earrings, where the effective spread against the ear is much greater. See **50** and **85**. Incidentally I also like the earrings at **31** and **34** for something different and different colours can match different clothing. And of course there is day wear and evening wear but for the latter there is nothing to compare with the multi-coloured flashes emanating from diamonds when dining under subdued electric lighting or candlelight. I have read that the popularity of diamonds, which emerged in the early twentieth century, actually coincides with the introduction of electric lighting. Incidentally it is also possible to buy unmounted stones. At **26** is a brilliant cut oval-shaped diamond of average or below clarity and colour, which fetched £1,085. This can be mounted on a ring style of your choice for a few hundred pounds and is an alternative if you cannot find the style of your choice or you feel uncomfortable at the thought of wearing a secondhand ring.

3.5ct emerald cut diamond solitaire ring. Ewbank Auctioneers, Send. Sep 11. HP: £10,500. ABP: £12,390.

Solitaire diamond ring, cushion shape old brilliant cut stone of 9.5 x 8.5 x 5.8mm estimated mounted weight 3.65ct colour assessed as L-M (drawing some yellow) clarity assessed as VSI, white precious metal mount, shank maker's mark M.B, no other marks. Golding Young & Thos. Mawer, Lincoln. Aug 11. HP: £8,200. ABP: £9,676.

Art Deco strap style diamond bracelet set in 18 carat white gold. Ewbank Auctioneers, Send. Sep 11. HP: £8,000. ABP: £9,440.

Fine 19thC diamond 'Maltese Cross' brooch/ pendant. George Kidner, Lymington. Oct 11. HP: £5,000. ABP: £5,900.

Antique garnet and diamond suite of jewellery: cabochon pear-shaped garnet and diamond set leaf motif pendant, 15 carat chain with matching earrings. Ewbank Auctioneers, Send. Sep 11. HP: £4,400. ABP: £5,192.

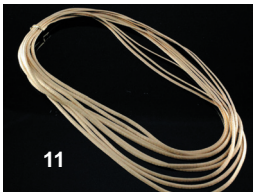
Sapphire and diamond set dress ring, oval facet cut sapphire mounted in a milled grain setting surrounded by multi set diamond shoulders, shank stamped P.T. and numbered 8210. Mallams, Oxford. Aug 11. HP: £3,600. ABP: £4,248.

Art Deco diamond encrusted bracelet. George Kidner, Lymington. Oct 11. HP: £3,600. ABP: £4,248.

Two stone diamond crossover ring, approx 1.7 carats in the main diamonds with smaller diamonds to the shoulders. Kivells, Holsworthy. Sep 11. HP: £3,500. ABP: £4,130.

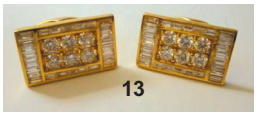
Very impressive yellow metal circular openwork target brooch/pendant, 75mm dia. oval belcher link chain necklet, 102cm long, no stamps, brooch/pendant weight 70gms, chain necklet weight 112gms. Halls, Shrewsbury. Oct 11. HP: £3,500. ABP: £4,130.

Late Victorian opal/diamond butterfly brooch, oval cabochon cut opals surrounded by old cut diamonds in pierced mounts and with detachable diamond set bale. Mallams, Oxford. Aug 11. HP: £3,400. ABP: £4,012.



18ct textured gold multi-strand necklace, 16.5in, 145g. Gorringes, Lewes. Sep 11. HP: £3,300. ABP: £3,894.

Mid Victorian diamond set hinged bangle. George Kidner, Lymington. Oct 11. HP: £3,000. ABP: £3,540.



Pair of diamond cufflinks, 18ct gold panels each inset with 6 brilliant cut diamonds within a border of baguette diamonds, swivel bar backs. Hartleys, Ilkley. Sep 11. HP: £3,000. ABP: £3,540.

Tanzanite and diamond ring, triangular cut tanzanite claw set in 18ct white gold with diamond encrusted borders and shoulders, size O. Hartleys, Ilkley. Sep 11. HP: £2,800. ABP: £3,304.

Tiffany platinum/diamond solitaire ring, 0.75ct round brilliant cut stone with GIA certificate. Charterhouse, Sherborne. Aug 11. HP: £2,400. ABP: £2,832.

Solitaire diamond ring, old cut stone (1.74cts) claw set on 18ct white gold shank, stamped 750, size N. Dee Atkinson & Harrison, Driffield. Sep 11. HP: £2,200. ABP: £2,596.

Pair of 18ct yellow gold and diamond stud earrings. Charterhouse Auctioneers, Sherborne. Aug 11. HP: £2,200. ABP: £2,596.

Cartier 18ct. gold flower brooch, signed 'Cartier-France - 18kts' and stamped with a London import mark London 1963, 60mm dia, weight 41.7gms, within red leather Cartier box. Halls, Shrewsbury. Oct 11. HP: £2,000. ABP: £2,360.

Art Deco synthetic ruby and diamond ring, oval ruby mounted with milled grained setting with further radiating square cut rubies through diamond set panels, French mark on outer shank and Model No. 30629. Mallams, Oxford. Aug 11. HP: £2,000. ABP: £2,360.

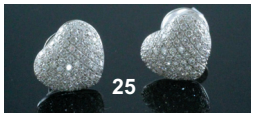
Diamond solitaire ring, cushion cut stone approx 1ct, claw set in 18ct gold shank, size N. Hartleys, Ilkley. Sep 11. HP: £2,000. ABP: £2,360.

Theo Fennell 18ct white gold pave set ruby and diamond heart pendant, matching chain. Gorringes, Lewes. Sep 11. HP: £1,900. ABP: £2,242.

18ct white gold, sapphire and diamond Art Deco style ring. Charterhouse, Sherborne. Jul 11. HP: £1,500. ABP: £1,770.

Platinum set solitaire diamond ring, brilliant cut stone approx 1ct, brilliant set shoulders, size M. Gorringes, Lewes. Sep 11. HP: £1,400. ABP: £1,652.

18ct white gold and diamond ring, set 3 rows of baguette cut diamonds interspersed by brilliant cut diamonds. Charterhouse Auctioneers, Sherborne. Jul 11. HP: £1,300. ABP: £1,534.



Pair of Theo Fennell 18ct white gold and pave set diamond heart shaped ear studs. Gorringes, Lewes. Sep 11. HP: £950. ABP: £1,121.

Brilliant cut diamond, 1.02 carats, VS2 colour G still in original packet. A F Brock & Co Ltd, Stockport. Aug 11. HP: £920. ABP: £1,085.

9ct locket and chain with 2 half sovereigns, 5 9ct gold medallions, seals etc. Robert Bell & Company, Horncastle. Oct 11. HP: £820. ABP: £967.

The prices quoted are actual Hammer Prices (HP) followed by the Approximate Buyer's Price (ABP) which includes an average buyer's premium of 15% + VAT.

Chinese carved bright green jade pendant, modelled as a squirrel on a gourd, 2in. Gorringes, Lewes. Sep 11. HP: £800. ABP: £944.

Pair of Theo Fennell 18ct white gold and black diamond tusk shaped drop earrings, 1.25in. Gorringes, Lewes. Sep 11. HP: £800. ABP: £944.

Gentleman's diamond solitaire ring, old brilliant cut stone approx 0.76cts, claw set on 18ct gold shank, size 1. Hartleys, Ilkley. Sep 11. HP: £780. ABP: £920.

Pair of Tahitian pearl and diamond earrings, pear shaped pearl hanging from a line of 4 graduated brilliant cut diamonds, in 18ct white gold. Hartleys, Ilkley. Sep 11. HP: £740. ABP: £873.

Sapphire/diamond cluster ring, emerald cut sapphire claw set within a border of baguette and brilliant round cut diamonds, on 18ct gold shank, size J. Hartleys, Ilkley. Sep 11. HP: £720. ABP: £849.

Gold and baguette cut diamond full eternity ring, size N. Gorringes, Lewes. Sep 11. HP: £700. ABP: £826.

Pair of ruby and diamond drop earrings, pear cut rubies set within a border of diamonds on 18ct white gold. Hartleys, Ilkley. Sep 11. HP: £650. ABP: £767.

Victorian Etruscan revival pendant, amethyst set within 2 bands of enamel decoration and with tapering terminals below, fitted case. Charterhouse, Sherborne. Aug 11. HP: £620. ABP: £731.

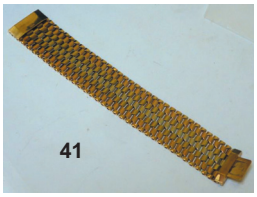
Lady's 3 stone diamond ring, brilliant cut stones, total weight approx 1ct, each stone in crown setting, stamped & tested 18ct gold, size R or 8.1/2 US (2.5g). A F Brock & Co Ltd, Stockport. Aug 11. HP: £540. ABP: £637.

Two 18ct gold globe pendants, with a single box link chain, 24.8g. Gorringes, Lewes. Sep 11. HP: £520. ABP: £613.

Pearl necklace, graduated pearls, white gold clasp set with four old brilliant cut diamonds, 22in long. Hartleys, Ilkley. Sep 11. HP: £520. ABP: £613.

Gold diamond, ruby, emerald & sapphire brooch, modelled as parrot clutching a pearl, 2in. Gorringes, Lewes. Sep 11. HP: £500. ABP: £590.

14ct gold mounted emerald cut solitaire diamond ring, size N. Gorringes, Lewes. Sep 11. HP: £500. ABP: £590.



Three colour 9ct gold cuff bracelet, flat links set in bands of white, yellow and rose gold, 7in long, 43.4g. Hartleys, Ilkley. Sep 11. HP: £480. ABP: £566.

Jewellery

Victorian diamond set bangle, gold hinged top mounted with a diamond set star and moon, cased. Hartleys, Ilkley. Sep 11. HP: £480. ABP: £566.

Victorian ruby stomacher brooch, as a large gold knot, foliate moulded edged and textured ground, applied oval cut purple tourmalines, 3in wide, original case. Hartleys, Ilkley. Sep 11. HP: £480. ABP: £566.

Lady's seven stone diamond ring, brilliant cut stones, total weight 1ct, in channel setting, 18ct h/m, size M or 6 US (3.8g) as new. A F Brock & Co Ltd, Stockport. Aug 11. HP: £420. ABP: £495.

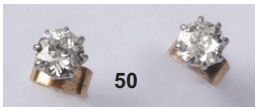
Pair diamond cufflinks, circular white gold panels encrusted with diamonds, swivel bar backs. Hartleys, Ilkley. Sep 11. HP: £400. ABP: £472.

Antique miniature portrait brooch, approx 62 x 52mm, ceramic centre, ornate applied pattern to frame, miniature does not fit frame properly, tested 15ct gold, possibly better (gross 22.8g) boxed. A F Brock & Co Ltd, Stockport. Aug 11. HP: £400. ABP: £472.

Victorian gold locket, hinged front applied with a blue enamel star inlaid with half pearl, glazed interior, snake chain (unmarked). Hartleys, Ilkley. Sep 11. HP: £390. ABP: £460.

18ct gold mounted 1896 sovereign brooch, gross 16.2g. Gorringes, Lewes. Sep 11. HP: £380. ABP: £448.

9ct gold bangle, form of a coiled snake, bright cut and chased head, and diamond set eyes. Dee Atkinson & Harrison, Driffield. Sep 11. HP: £380. ABP: £448.



Pair of diamond solitaire earrings, old cut stones, total weight approx. 0.75 carats, 8 claw white gold crown setting, yellow gold post & butterfly fittings, tested 18ct (1.7g). A F Brock & Co Ltd, Stockport. Aug 11. HP: £380. ABP: £448.

Gold mounted diamond and tourmaline cluster pendant, 1in. Gorringes, Lewes. Sep 11. HP: £360. ABP: £424.

Amethyst and diamond ring, large oval cut amethyst claw set within diamond shoulders on 18ct gold shank, size N. Hartleys, Ilkley. Sep 11. HP: £360. ABP: £424.

Lady's sapphire & diamond cluster ring, dark blue oval stone with surround of ten brilliant cut diamonds, total diamond weight approx. 1.00 carats, white gold settings, yellow gold shank, stamped & tested 18ct, size K or 5.1/2 US (3.9g). A F Brock & Co Ltd, Stockport. Aug 11. HP: £340. ABP: £401.

18ct gold ruby, enamel and pearl pendant brooch, 2.75in, gross 13.4g. Gorringes, Lewes. Sep 11. HP: £320. ABP: £377.

Georg Jensen '100 ZERO' silver necklet and matching bangle, designed by Jacqueline Raburn, asymmetrical choker hung with two large discs, bangle with a single disc, stamped 925, Georg Jensen, Denmark, 450, Necklet Cased. Hartleys, Ilkley. Sep 11. HP: £320. ABP: £377.

Mother of pearl stud set, incl. pair of cuff links, square panels in platinum surround set in 18ct gold, panels 0.5in wide, fitted case, & a further set of studs. (2) Dee Atkinson & Harrison, Driffield. Sep 11. HP: £320. ABP: £377.

Opal and diamond cluster ring, elongated oval opal panel surrounded by diamond chips set on unmarked gold shank, size K. Dee Atkinson & Harrison, Driffield. Sep 11. HP: £320. ABP: £377.

Lady's diamond solitaire ring, brilliant cut stone, approx 0.50 carats, in four claw cradle setting, stamped & tested 18ct gold, size N or 6.1/2 US (4.0g). A F Brock & Co Ltd, Stockport. Aug 11. HP: £320. ABP: £377.

Ornate antique brooch, approx 40mm dia, relief pattern with flowers/bobbles, textured finish, with safety type fastener, tested 18ct gold (11.6g) boxed. A F Brock & Co Ltd, Stockport. Aug 11. HP: £320. ABP: £377.

Opal and 15ct gold necklace, large oval claw set opal and suspended from a pierced tapering drop in turn suspended from smaller opal on trace chain, 16in long. Dee Atkinson & Harrison, Driffield. Sep 11. HP: £310. ABP: £365.

This section is only a sample from 1000s of results from recent sales. See our website for an extensive selection.

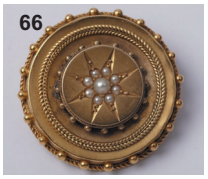
Lady's 3 stone diamond ring, brilliant cut stones, total weight 0.50 carats, in twist style setting, all in white gold, 18ct h/m, size O or 7.1/4 US (4.9g). A F Brock & Co Ltd, Stockport. Aug 11. HP: £300. ABP: £354.

Antique cameo brooch, approx 60 x 45mm, ornately carved shell depicting bust portrait of a lady, set in spinner type frame, ornate decoration to top & bottom, tested 18ct gold, some sealant visible at side of back frame, fitted with base metal pin & safety chain, (gross 27.5g) boxed. A F Brock & Co Ltd, Stockport. Aug 11. HP: £300. ABP: £354.

Art Deco jade and diamond ring, pale green oblong panel millegrain set within border of round cut diamonds, in platinum on 9ct white gold shank, size N. Hartleys, Ilkley. Sep 11. HP: £290. ABP: £342.

9ct gold bracelet, flattened graduated curb links, 8.5in long, 24.4grams. Dee Atkinson & Harrison, Driffield. Sep 11. HP: £280. ABP: £330.

Antique ornate Albertine, approx 8in, fitted with twist style T-bar & swivel fastener, tested 15ct gold (13.7g). A F Brock & Co Ltd, Stockport. Aug 11. HP: £280. ABP: £330.



Antique target style brooch, approx 35mm, star centre set with half pearls, bobbled rim with twisted rope finish, memorial back with miniature portrait picture of a young man, tested 18ct gold (14.2g). A F Brock & Co Ltd, Stockport. Aug 11. HP: £280. ABP: £330.

Lady's antique cluster ring, long oval almandine garnet, surround of sixteen old cut diamonds, total diamond weight approx 0.35 carats, white metal settings, tested platinum, yellow gold shank, stamped & tested 18ct, size M or 6 US (3.5g). A F Brock & Co Ltd, Stockport. Aug 11. HP: £270. ABP: £318.

Pair of Victorian gold earrings, each having three interlocking hollow loops, applied with rope work and turquoise cabochon beads, on shepherd's hooks. Hartleys, Ilkley. Sep 11. HP: £270. ABP: £318.

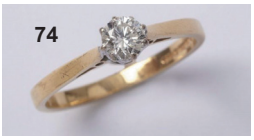
18ct gold and jade dress ring, size O. Gorringes, Lewes. Sep 11. HP: £260. ABP: £306.

Victorian coral brooch, rounded oblong panel carved with trellis work, and set in gold filigree mount, 1.5in wide. Hartleys, Ilkley. Sep 11. HP: £260. ABP: £306.

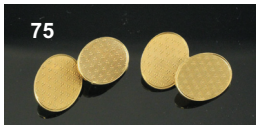
Cultured pearl choker, three strands of uniform pearls, 14ct gold clasp set with pearls and rubies, 15.5in long. Hartleys, Ilkley. Sep 11. HP: £250. ABP: £295.

Victorian red stone and half pearl pendant, round cabochon red stone inset with a diamond & 4 pearls, suspended within a graduated border of pearls with further pearl drop, inscription verso 'In Memory of A H Blayney, died Feb 22 1865', boxed. Hartleys, Ilkley. Sep 11. HP: £250. ABP: £295.

Gent's diamond set ring, brilliant cut stone, approx 0.25cts, gypsy style setting, 18ct gold h/m, size V or 10.1/2 US (8.9g). A F Brock & Co Ltd, Stockport. Aug 11. HP: £250. ABP: £295.



Lady's diamond solitaire ring, brilliant cut stone, 0.40cts, in white gold eight claw crown setting, yellow gold shank, 18ct h/m, size P or 7.1/2 US (2.8g). A F Brock & Co Ltd, Stockport. Aug 11. HP: £250. ABP: £295.



Pair of engine turned 18ct gold cufflinks, 10.6g. Gorringes, Lewes. Sep 11. HP: £240. ABP: £283.

Gold and mother of pearl dress stud set, in Austin Reed case. Gorringes, Lewes. Sep 11. HP: £240. ABP: £283.

Lady's ruby & diamond ring, emerald cut ruby to centre, princess cut diamond either side, total diamond weight 0.37cts, 18ct gold h/m, size P or 7.1/2 US (3.0g). A F Brock & Co Ltd, Stockport. Aug 11. HP: £240. ABP: £283.

Strand of amber beads, approx 28in, graduated round beads, approx. 22mm - 8mm, fitted with amber screw fastener. A F Brock & Co Ltd, Stockport. Aug 11. HP: £230. ABP: £271.

Edwardian gold and split pearl drop pendant, on fine gold chain, 17in. Gorringes, Lewes. Sep 11. HP: £220. ABP: £259.

Diamond set textured 9ct gold dress ring, size R, gross 16.5g. Gorringes, Lewes. Sep 11. HP: £220. ABP: £259.

Lady's antique ring, ceramic centre with miniature painting of a peasant lady, open frame surround set with ten round cut garnets, pinch-beck settings, shank tested 9ct gold, size L or 5.3/4 US (gross 6.5g). A F Brock & Co Ltd, Stockport. Aug 11. HP: £220. ABP: £259.

Images are in descending hammer price order. The price range is indicated at the start of each section.

Victorian 9ct gold bracelet, hollow curb links foliate chased with wide spacer links between, heart padlock clasp, 19.7g, 8.5in long. Hartleys, Ilkley. Sep 11. HP: £210. ABP: £247.

Filigree gold bracelet, circular panels applied with a flower head and ropework, scrolled links between, 7in long, 12g. Hartleys, Ilkley. Sep 11. HP: £210. ABP: £247.

Lady's ruby & diamond ring, oval deep red stone to centre in four claw setting, some very slight frittering to edge of stone, brilliant cut diamond to either side, total diamond weight approx. 0.30cts, white gold settings, yellow gold shank, 18ct h/m, size M or 6 US (3.9g). A F Brock & Co Ltd, Stockport. Aug 11. HP: £200. ABP: £236.

Pair of antique diamond set earrings, nine old cut stones, total weight approx 0.80cts, stones in flower cluster formation, screw back fittings, all in white gold, stamped 9ct (2.4g). A F Brock & Co Ltd, Stockport. Aug 11. HP: £200. ABP: £236.

Antique emerald & diamond bar brooch, approx 65 x 4mm, 3 sections 6 old cut diamonds, total weight approx 0.36cts, 2 sections of 6 old square cut emeralds between, slight chip to edge of 3 emeralds, platinum settings, white enamel trim, slight damage to enamel, yellow gold base, ornately patterned edge, safety catch fastener, stamped 18ct & platinum, (6.7g). A F Brock & Co Ltd, Stockport. Aug 11. HP: £200. ABP: £236.

Antique enamelled gold dress ring, inset with a jasper cameo of a young lady, size I. Gorringes, Lewes. Sep 11. HP: £190. ABP: £224.

Victorian amethyst and seed pearl brooch, pierced scroll work form set with half pearls and round cut amethysts, suspended with a pear cut amethyst to the centre. Hartleys, Ilkley. Sep 11. HP: £190. ABP: £224.

Georg Jensen silver and moonstone brooch, decorated with a bird and a fruit, no.123, 1.75in. Gorringes, Lewes. Sep 11. HP: £190. ABP: £224.

Jade bracelet, three oval panels pierced and carved with foliage, claw set on gold mount with oblong panels between, 7in long. Hartleys, Ilkley. Sep 11. HP: £190. ABP: £224.

Lady's emerald & diamond ring, triple circular clusters with round cut emeralds to centre & surrounds of thirty small round cut diamonds, total diamond weight approx. 0.45 carats, yellow gold with white gold faced settings, yellow gold shank, 18ct h/m, size L or 5.3/4 US (3.2g). A F Brock & Co Ltd, Stockport. Aug 11. HP: £185. ABP: £218.

Gent's diamond solitaire ring, early brilliant cut stone, approx 0.25cts, in eight claw gypsy style setting, stamped & tested 18ct gold, size S or 9 US (6.3g). A F Brock & Co Ltd, Stockport. Aug 11. HP: £185. ABP: £218.

Gold mounted Japanese shakudo work brooch, decorated with the moon shining on a tree trunk, 1.5in. Gorringes, Lewes. Sep 11. HP: £180. ABP: £212.

Georg Jensen silver bracelet, decorated with stylised flowers, no.84, 2.25in. Gorringes, Lewes. Sep 11. HP: £180. ABP: £212.

Pair of amethyst stud earrings, each with a single square stone collet set in 14k gold. Dee Atkinson & Harrison, Driffield. Sep 11. HP: £180. ABP: £212.