Hunting for Gemstones

Connor’s Corner.

Most people like diamonds but my favorite stone is jade, Imperial Jade. Yes, I know, good Burmese Jade can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. I learned this by watching Gem Hunters on TV and then from talking to my good friend Dylan Shub who lives in Israel and owns Gryphon’s Nest Antiques and specializes in antique jewelry and gems.

A few weeks ago my dad and I got to buy a lot, and I mean a lot of gemstones (look at the pictures with this article!) A friend of ours who deals in antiques and collectables came to visit, because he had some designer costume jewelry that he thought my mom may want. He also brought a big box of gemstones that he had purchased at an estate sale some time ago. He had sapphires, amethyst, rubies, smoky quartz, emeralds, citrine, garnets, topaz, fire opal and my favorite jade (jadite and nephrite, not Imperial Jade!). I grabbed the bag jade, but my dad wanted to buy it and since he had more money than me, he won. But then I found another bag of jade charms at the bottom of the box, so my dad bought one bag and I bought the other bag and we traded half and half. I also bought some of the fire opals because they are very pretty and look like the color sprinkles on a donut or cupcake.

When the dealer friend left, and dad and I spent all of our money, my mom freaked out! She said “What are you going to do with all those raw stones, that just cost you a fortune!” Dad and I both said at the same time, “Sell them!” And that is what we did.

Last week at my Altadena estate sale, there was no jewelry, so I asked the trustee, Garhard if I can sell some of my jade charms and gemstone, because having jewelry at an estate sale brings more people to the sale. He said sure, and I proved my mom wrong and sold $200 worth of jade, and that was only three small pieces! She wasn’t as worried after this.

This summer when school is out, my dad and I are going to take jewelry making lessons, so we can put the other gemstones to good use. We are going to learn how to melt gold and silver, and how to set stones in jewelry. My dad will also learn how to cut the raw stones and polish them. He said he would teach me that in four years when I was a teenager!

If anyone is looking to buy small real gemstones, I have a lot for sale. Email me at: americasyoungestpicker@gmail.com