

# History

## HERBERT CRUMMENAUER GEMSTONE CUTTERS

### FAMILY RUN SINCE 1860

A gemstone cutting firm in the change of times



It was the year 1860. The gemstone industry at and around Idar-Oberstein was at its initial stage. Also Carl Crummenauer was moved by the spirit of this age, and we are grateful for his courage and talents, which made him found a first small, water-operated cutting mill in 1860 as the first site of the family firm.

Even in this first period there was already a specialisation on working with and dying natural agates, which was still plentiful at and around Idar-Oberstein then. Hugo Crummenauer, son of Carl Crummenauer, headed the firm till 1915.

In 1926 the firm was then taken over by Paul Crummenauer, Hugo Crummenauer's eldest son. In 1951 he was followed by Herbert Crummenauer, son of Paul Crummenauer

In the year 1952 the firm moved to what was then considered a state-of-the-art gemstone-cutting firm with modern equipment and electricity as source of power. The range of products was expanded: almost fifty different kinds of gemstones were cut in continually changing new shapes. Parallel to this the treatment of agates was further improved: the colours gained more and more brilliance. Agate was cut into new shapes, posing a challenge to men and machinery: after all, agate is the hardest semi-precious stone (hardness 6.9 on the Mohs' scale) and thus very difficult to work with.

In 1967, Herbert Crummenauer became a Master Gemcutter. One year later a new gemstone-cutting factory was built. Agate cameo stones were then being produced on a larger scale, and the sophisticated manufacturing procedures were further improved. The first fully automated machinery was purchased.

In 1987 Andreas Crummenauer, son of Herbert Crummenauer, entered the firm. Tradition was now combined with technology, and the most modern machines for working with precious stones were bought and also constructed.

Production in series was taken up: top qualities finely executed were produced partly in manual labour, partly by means of automated or fully automated machines, while flexibility was always considered to be virtually important.

In 1993 Pia Crummenauer, the wife of Andreas Crummenauer, joined the firm. She is responsible for the business aspects of the firm.