



Hope Caton, GG

HERTIAGE APPRAISER FOR THE SOUTH REGION

My mother has always claimed that I am a born jeweler. As a baby I would closely examine any jewels I could reach, turning them slowly as if eyeing them through a jeweler's loupe. By age ten, I already had my own business making bead bracelets and selling them to friends, relatives and teachers. My part-time jobs while in high school were in mall jewelry stores

I graduated from New York State University Fashion Institute of Technology with an Associate in Applied Sciences (AAS) degree in Jewelry Design and Manufacturing. I also attended the Gemological Institute of America (GIA), NYC and received the Graduate Gemologist (GG) degree, with additional certificates conferred in Pearls, Pearl Grading, and Insurance Replacement Appraisal.

My work experience includes both sales and management positions in the United States, on cruise liners, and on the Caribbean islands of St. Thomas and the Bahamas. I was recruited by and worked for such companies as Greyhound Leisure Services, Diamonds International, Columbian Emeralds International, Tiffany's, Saks Fifth Avenue, Mont Blanc, and Diamonds Direct. I also was owner of a company called SOHL, where I designed, imported and sold amber and semi-precious stone jewelry.

Gems and jewelry are not just my business: they are who I am. My deepest passions are revealed in the presence of their beauty.