

NATIONAL ROCKHOUND & LAPIDARY HALL OF FAME

A. Worth Hobby, M.D.

Inducted 2015
Tribute (Lapidary)

A. Worth Hobby, M.D. a surgeon from Atlanta GA, was a skilled gem carver. He carved wood for a hobby until a grateful patient gave him a mastodon tusk to carve. The transition from ivory to jade was easy for him since he was interested in Chinese arts. His gem carving took much more of his free time than did wood carving and was so challenging that he worked on it far into the nights and all through his days off and vacations. He taught himself to make china-thin jade plates, cups, saucers, vases and bowls. In the mid 1960's he had an exhibit of his work at the Smithsonian Institution. His work used both nephrite and jadeite in many hues, shades and tints.

His second favorite material was precious opal. An opal butterfly with paper-thin, curved, delicate wings once graced the cover of *Lapidary Journal*. He also wrote a chapter for the book *Fundamentals of Gemstone Carving*. He often entered his carvings in competition at club and federation gem shows winning several blue ribbons and trophies.

The workshop in his home had a variety of fine machines and tools, some of which he made himself. He always used water as a coolant. His tools included a full line of goldsmithing tools as he also taught himself to create gold jewelry.