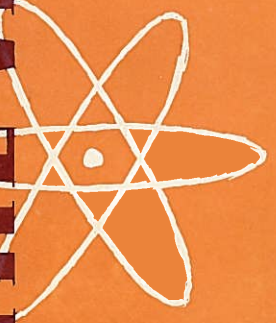




1872

THE VPI RING

1964



## *Foreword*

This booklet has been prepared to tell you about your VPI ring; the tradition of the ring in the past, the development of the latest ring, procedure for ordering your 1964 ring, and general information on stones, finishes, and construction.

Included are sample order forms and a photograph postcard of the ring you will receive next Spring.

Class officers and Ring Committee members will wear sample rings from September 20, 1962 until Ring Dance. In addition two lady members of the Class will wear the new Official Ladies Ring, developed this year for the first time.

On October 15, 1962, samples of all recommended stones, finishes, and gold of Official Rings, Official Ladies Rings, and the Miniature Ring will be displayed in the Library where they will remain until delivery of the individual orders.

Keep this booklet to help you make an informed decision in ordering your ring, and to answer future questions about it.

## CONTENTS

- I . History of the V P I Ring
- II . The 1964 V P I Ring
- III. General Information
  - A. Stones
  - B. Gold, Construction, and Finishes
  - C. Care and Repair
  - D. Ordering
  - E. Prices

## HISTORY OF THE VPI RING

by *George C. Guynn and W. Douglas Ross*

The 1964 VPI Ring now takes its place beside its ancestors and becomes a part of the tradition that is so meaningful for students at VPI. The first class ring was worn in 1911, and since that time has undergone a design evolution that has changed it completely. But this ring that looks so different has in it the same spirit that was born in the ring of 1911, and this spirit has become deeper and richer with age.

The early VPI rings were very simple in design, and their clean lines and simple beauty made them objects of great pride for the wearer. Many of the early rings had rectangular stones, and the 1913 ring did not have a stone at all. In the years following the rings became larger and more masculine, and the design became more intricate as more and more design elements were included. VPI became well known for its ring and its beautiful ring dances. Today the ring dance is a meaningful event for a Techman and is perhaps the second greatest event for him in his college days, graduation being first. VPI has become almost as well known for its ring and impressive ring dances as for being a top-ranking college of engineering and agriculture.

Original design has assumed an importance greater at VPI than at any other school. Only VPI, among all colleges and universities, changes the class ring completely each year. This allows each class to create their own design, setting theirs apart from all others with the advantage of selecting only the elements which have meaning and significance for that class.

Early in the life of the VPI ring the design became symmetrical, that is, both sides being similar in design arrangement. With rare exceptions this precedent has been followed to the present day. The eagle has become a traditional part of the design of the VPI ring. Sabers, rifles, lieutenants stripes, and other military symbols were used during the military days of VPI and remain to a certain extent today. During the post-war years buildings became very important design elements on the class ring. Lane Hall, old and antiquated but an important landmark in the history of VPI, was used on several

rings. The S.A.B. has also been used along with Burruss Hall, a traditional design feature. With the dedication of the World War II Memorial in the late fifties classes have used the Memorial and Chapel on the ring.

The class of 1964 has introduced several new features on the ring. For the first time statuary figures and the atom have been used on the VPI ring. A new treatment of the compass rose is also used.

Since that first ring worn by the class of 1911 the Tech ring has changed almost beyond recognition. In half a century it has grown until it is almost four times as heavy as the original ring. It is massive, sculptural, intricate, and cherished as a proud symbol of the school. Upon graduation the only visible link between Technicians is the class ring. Thus it must be a worthy symbol of the four years of college life for the lifetime ahead. Thus the 1964 Class Ring and the fifty-fourth VPI Ring represents many things to many people: a fascinating object to smaller brother and sister; a conversation piece in company; a hard fought competition for the manufacturer (and a sample of his finest work). But most important of all it is a symbol and reminder of many things for a proud Technician, remaining with him wherever he goes as a cherished memento of four great years.

## THE 1964 CLASS RING

By Tom Ackiss

'Heritage and Education' is the theme of the '64 Class Ring.

The ring committee first decided upon this theme and then proceeded, with the aid of representatives from the '64 ring manufacturer, to design a ring which would convey the theme. One side is designated Heritage and the other side is designated Education.

On the Heritage side, the eagle stands for the heritage of the United States and represents the independent spirit and freedom of its people. It is an eagle that is dignified and stately. It is neither warlike nor exaggerated but makes its impression with simple dignity. The sabers are weapons of the age of chivalry and represent the military heritage of VPI and its mission of training men to serve America both in peace and in war.

The Thirty-seven Star Flag was flying from the flag-staffs of America in 1872 when VPI was founded and is a symbolic part of VPI's historic heritage. The Confederate Flag is a symbol of a by-gone ideal but has a new meaning for us in this day. It was a symbol of exercised political independence but now represents the spirit that is inborn in Virginians and Southerners alike, namely of a fighting pride in themselves — their state — and their football teams.

The atom is symbolic of the age in which we live and represents our inheritance of the responsibility for preserving the dignity of man in this atomic age. "Ut Prosim" and the War Memorial sculpture which bears that title totally envelop the meaning and purpose of VPI. VPI has been and is in existence "that we may serve". We are educated "that we may serve", and those men whose names are eternally engraved in stone died "that we may serve" ourselves, our people, our country, and our God. This is the heritage to which we are heirs and the heritage for which we live.

The side representing Education is very simple in design. Again the eagle represents a people whose freedom has been won according to the words "You shall know the Truth and the Truth shall make you free". The Fifty Star Flag now flies over American soil, and the boundaries of our nation are no longer marked by the oceans surrounding the American Continent. This was not achieved by annexation, but by free choice of educated citizens-to-be.

The Virginia Flag is not only symbolic of the geographic location of VPI but also has symbolic meaning for the people of this state, the "Mother of Presidents". The School Seal is symbolic of the fields of education at VPI. Though these fields seem separate, they are dependent upon one another in the economy of the nation. This dependence is symbolic of the ultimate unity of knowledge and displays the many facets of VPI's educational range.

A student has his choice of Engineering, Agriculture, Science, Business, or Home Economics, according to the field in which he intends to graduate. Unclassified students or those who do not care to designate a vocational field have the option of "Sic Semper Tyrannis".

On the bezel, the chain of 64 links which surrounds the words "Virginia Polytechnic Institute" symbolizes the unity of the class. The

points of the compass rose are symbolic of the universal aspect of VPI and the dispersal of its graduates throughout the United States and the world.

This year the Class of 1964 will have three rings. They are the men's official ring and the women's official ring (both to be worn only by students of VPI) and the miniature. The women's official ring and the miniature are distinctively different in size. The miniature ring has the words "Virginia Tech" around the bezel instead of the words "Virginia Polytechnic Institute" which appears on both official rings. These rings are manufactured by Josten's Inc., of Owatonna, Minnesota, a firm that has served VPI for two generations.

## STONES

When ordering your 1964 VPI ring or miniature the stone choice shown on the price page labeled "Official Ring" apply also to the Ladies Official and Miniature rings. Factors that should influence your decision are color, hardness, and cut.

Synthetic stones are created with the same raw materials that nature used to make their natural counterparts. Comparable physical conditions are artificially induced. Josten stones come from a company controlled source in Germany. A typical order of stones will vary slightly in color; most noticeably in transparent stones. Thus we offer light and dark aquamarine — the two variations being hand selected. To help you decide, and to make certain that you know what you will receive, a typical display of stones will be shown at the Library with the sample rings. An identical display will be used as a control by our stone department in selecting stones for your rings.

The hardness of stones is measured on the Mohs scale with diamond given a figure of 10. Sapphire type stones rate about 9 (Blue Sapphire, Golden Sapphire, Garnet, Black Sapphire). Spinel type stones rate about 8 (Blue Spinel, Aquamarine, Alexandrite, Kunzite, Blue Zircon, Ruby, White or Black Spinel, Green Spinel, Peridot). Black Onyx has a rating of about 5. Except for the Onyx, all stones have sufficient hardness to resist normal wear but all will

break if subjected to sharp blows. It should be noted that the color of black and green spinel and sapphire stones is derived from a "doublet" construction which involves inserting a layer of pigment transversely through the stone. This in no way effects hardness.

All stones except opaque onyx are faceted on the backs for greater refraction of light. A special diamond cut is available in aquamarine and golden sapphire stones only. These were selected as being transparent enough to make the extra brilliance desirable. The tops of stones may be faceted or smooth. Smooth or "buff-top" stones resist chipping better than faceted and most prefer the sleek masculine contour that they give to a ring. Star Ruby and Sapphire stones are also synthetics and are cabochon cut — a necessary thing to create the "star" — which gives a high contour. Samples may be seen upon request at ordering.

A word of advice from the experts: as with all lifetime possessions, most enduring satisfaction comes with the conservative rather than the flashy. Admire all the stones; but when you select your own, make it dark in color and buff top.

## GOLD and FINISHES

Gold used in the VPI ring is 10k plumb or 14k. Pure gold — which would be much too soft for practical use — rates as 24k. Other metals are added to form an alloy with a hardness and toughness which will resist year of normal wear. By varying the other metals, white, yellow, or green colors of gold are achieved. Hardness is usually measured on the Brinell scale. Your ring will measure 210, which is quite hard. Both hardness and gold content are carefully controlled by making the alloys at the Josten plant.

Basic constructions are open back and closed back, referring to the portion immediately under the stone next to the finger. Open back construction offers two weights depending upon the size of the opening — 18 pennyweight or 21 pennyweight. Closed back rings, having more gold, weigh 23 pennyweight. There is no particular advantage to ordering the heavier rings since the outer di-

mensions are identical for all three. An 18 pennyweight open back ring offers the advantage of greater comfort (since it is lighter), less risk of stone breakage, ease of cleaning, and greater light refraction through the stone.

Finish is applied to the completed ring to enhance the detail just as a sculptor applies a patina to his bronzes and in much the same way — usually by the application of chemicals and heat. A good finish is dark enough to relieve the raised portions of the die work and durable enough to stand wear.

We recommend Confederate Grey, Antique Green, Military Brown, and Sable for yellow gold. Green gold looks good with Military Brown, Antique Green or Sable. White gold is handsome with Air Academy, Confederate Grey, or Double Oxidized.

Antique Green compliments red stones — Ruby or Garnet. Blue stones look best with white or yellow gold in Confederate Grey or Sable. Transparent stones — Golden Sapphires or Aquamarines — give a pleasing effect in white gold with Double Oxidized finish.

Select the combination that suits your coloring, taste, and temperament; but remember what Polonius said about clothes: "not expressed in fancy—rich, not gaudy; for the apparel oft proclaims the man". That applies to jewelry too!

## CARE OF RINGS

When your ring is delivered to you, you will be thrilled by its pristine beauty. It is a custom-made piece of fine jewelry hand fabricated by master craftsmen and inspected carefully before release.

The very fact that it is to a large degree hand made dictates a measure of variation — above a high standard of quality of course — and is your assurance that the VPI order is never mass produced.

As with any fine piece of jewelry reasonable care should be given it. We suggest that you slip it off and *put it in your pocket* when washing your hands or working with liquid solvents. For

safety as well as to avoid damage to the ring remove it before doing rough work, working with machinery, or engaging in strenuous sports. An occasional gentle brushing in a mild ammonia solution and detergent will keep it clean and sparkling.

Since the VPI ring is one of the heaviest rings worn, avoid striking the stone against hard surfaces. The very weight of the ring may chip your stone.

Josten's guarantees your stone for as long as you are on the VPI campus, and, of course, the ring itself. If damage does occur take your ring to the Office of Student Affairs, fill out the simple form there, keep your receipt, and the ring will be repaired. This takes a little time. To keep your ring looking good, treat it well.

Dies for your ring are retained in our vaults. If in future years a ring is severely damaged or worn we will make you an entirely new ring upon receipt of the old. The charge is nominal — \$10.00 for the ring plus stone cost if it is necessary to use a new stone. Send it to Josten's, College Ring Division, Owatonna, Minnesota.

## ORDERING

Study the sample displays in the Library and the contents of this booklet, then fill out your sample order form. Bring it along when you are authorized to order your ring. By knowing exactly what you wish to order the process will be much quicker and easier.

Should you have final questions, three jewelry specialists, including a designer and technical expert, will be on hand to answer them. Sizes will be taken with actual ring replicas.

You will also wish to contact Class Officers and Members of the Ring Committee who will be wearing sample rings after September 20. Those wearing samples and the rings they are wearing are:

## VPI PRICE INFORMATION OFFICIAL RING

18 dwt (net gold content) 10K Plumb Josten Alpha Hard Gold — open back construction — hardened to specification of 210 Brinnell.

Price \$50.90  
10% Tax 5.09  
Total Price \$55.99

The above price includes the following stones: Synthetic Ruby, Blue Spinel, Garnet, Blue Sapphire, Tourmaline, Aquamarine, Alexandrite, Golden Sapphire, Kunzite, Genuine Black Onyx.

For special Stones add: (all prices include 10% tax)

Blue Zircon, White or Black Sapphire, \$ 2.20  
Green Spinel, Peridot \$ 5.50  
Genuine Citrine Topaz 70.00  
Linde Star Ruby or Star Sapphire \$ 1.65  
For Diamond Cut — additional

Add for:

10K 21 dwt. ring \$ 3.00  
10K 23 dwt. ring closed \$ 5.00  
14K 18 dwt. ring \$ 9.35  
14K 21 dwt. ring \$14.00  
14K 23 dwt. ring closed \$18.15

Add for:

10K Green Gold \$ 1.00  
14K Green Gold \$ 1.50  
10K White Gold \$ 2.20  
14K White Gold \$ 2.75

Permatite plastic back (available in 21 dwt. rings)

NO CHARGE

Regular Gemgravure Josten  
Gold Encrusting — Masonic emblem "VPI" \$ 3.30  
monogram, three Greek letters \$ 4.30  
German Club emblem \$ 4.40  
Cotillion Club emblem \$ 6.60  
\$ 7.60

Name	Color	Finish	Stone
Thomas L. Ackiss	10K Yellow	French	Tourmaline
Robert E. Russell	10K White	Air Academy	Blue Zircon
Lyle N. Garrette, Jr.	10K Green	Sable	Golden Sapphire
W. Douglas Ross	10K Yellow	Confederate Grey	Blue Spinel
Alfred A. Ege, Jr.	10K Green	Double Oxidized	Blue Sapphire
W. Jerry Collis	10K Yellow	Antique	Garnet
Raymond B. Dirling, Jr.	10K Green	Antique	Peridot
Vincent F. Ewell, Jr.	10K Yellow	Sable	Golden Sapphire
R. Bradley Chewning	10K White	Confederate Grey	Alexandrite
George C. Gwynn	10K White	Double Oxidized	Dark Aqua
Daniel E. Judd, III	10K Green	Military Brown	Ruby
Reubin A. Payne, Jr.	10K Green	Stygian	Blue Spinel
Carol Williams	10K White	Double Oxidized	Dark Aqua
Judy Manz	10K Yellow	Antique	Garnet

First ordering period will be during the week of November 12-16. Students who have paid class dues and have completed the 90 credit hours required for Junior Academic status will be able to order at this time. A \$10.00 deposit is required with your order.

Second ordering period will be January 14, 1963.

The last few orders are planned for late March and will be limited to special cases not qualified to order earlier.

Rings will be delivered on May 1, 1963 in time for that gala occasion, Ring Dance.



VPI PRICE INFORMATION  
OFFICIAL LADIES RING

7.5 dwt. 10 x 8 stone, — open back construction — Hardened to specification of 210 Brinnell.

Price \$27.00  
10% Tax 2.70  
Total Price \$29.70

Base price includes same stones as for official ring.

For special stones add: (All prices include 10% tax)  
White, Black, or Green Sapphire,  
and Blue Zircon \$ 1.75  
Citrine Topaz \$ 3.50  
Linde Star Sapphire or Star Ruby \$30.00

Add for: (All prices include 10% tax)  
14K Gold - open back \$ 3.00  
10K Green Gold \$ 1.00  
14K Green Gold \$ 1.65  
10K White Gold \$ 2.00  
14K White Gold \$ 2.75

VPI PRICE INFORMATION  
MINIATURE RING

4.5 dwt. (net gold weight) 10k Plumb Josten Alpha Hard Gold — open back construction — hardened to specification of 210 Brinnell.

Price \$24.00  
10% Tax 2.40  
Total Price \$26.40

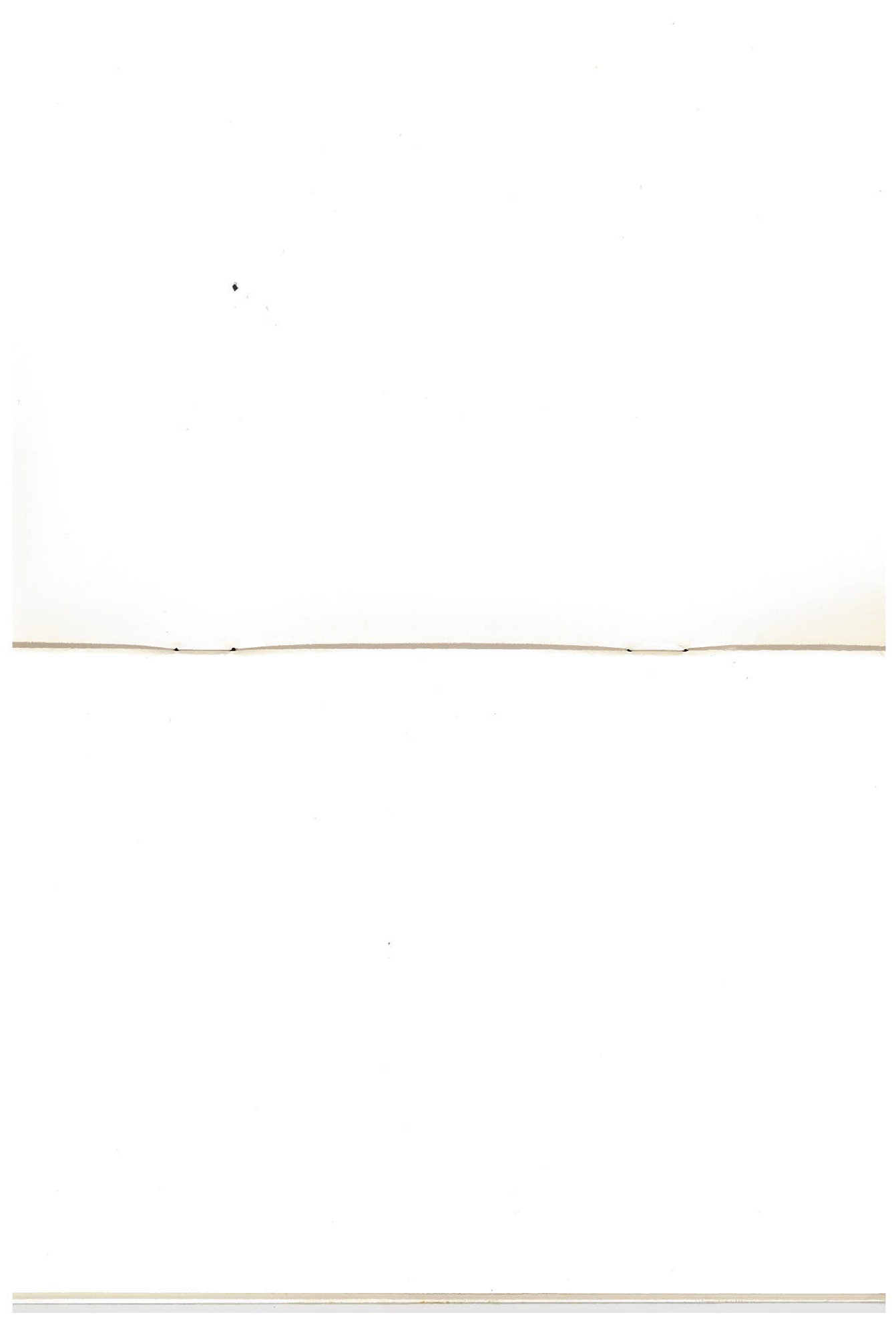
Base price includes same stone as for official ring.

For special stones add: (All prices include 10% tax)  
White, Black, or Green Sapphire,  
and Blue Zircon \$ 1.75  
Citrine Topaz \$ 3.50  
Linde Star Ruby or Star Sapphire \$20.00  
Diamonds quoted upon request

Add For:  
14K Gold - open back \$ 3.00  
10K Green Gold \$ 1.00  
14K Green Gold \$ 1.65  
10K White Gold \$ 2.00  
14K White Gold \$ 2.75

All prices based upon fine gold at \$35.00 per ounce. If the Government increases or decreases the price of gold before delivery, the prices will be increased or decreased only in the amount of the gold cost.

For special orders of any stones not listed in these pages, please consult Philip Barrager of Josten's at the time of ordering.



Josten's

