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Big Home-Grown Emerald Unveiled

Carroll F. Chatham, San Francisco research chemist who has mastered the secret of growing gem crystals, unveiled a 300-carat emerald yesterday.

It has been developing in Chatham's secret research laboratory here for exactly a year, for display by the San Francisco Gem and Mineral Society at the 16th annual convention of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies in Civic Auditorium July 8-10.

If the two-ounce crystal were the product of nature, its value would be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

As a man-made gem, its value is whatever Chatham puts on it. He is the only man in the world known to have cultivated emeralds successfully.

The emeralds Chatham grows for sale to the jewelry trade average one to five carats. They take a year to mature also, but Chatham gave the 300-carat stone "special cultivation" because it was to be an exhibition piece.



300-carat column-shaped emerald is sitting in a metal base.

He turns out 5000 carats of his cultivated emeralds a month. Except for a few stones that go to local lapidaries, all are sold to a firm in Geneva, Switzerland.

Good natural emeralds bring \$1000 a carat and upward — more than diamonds. Chatham sells his for about \$100 a carat — and he says he is \$1,000,000 behind in orders.