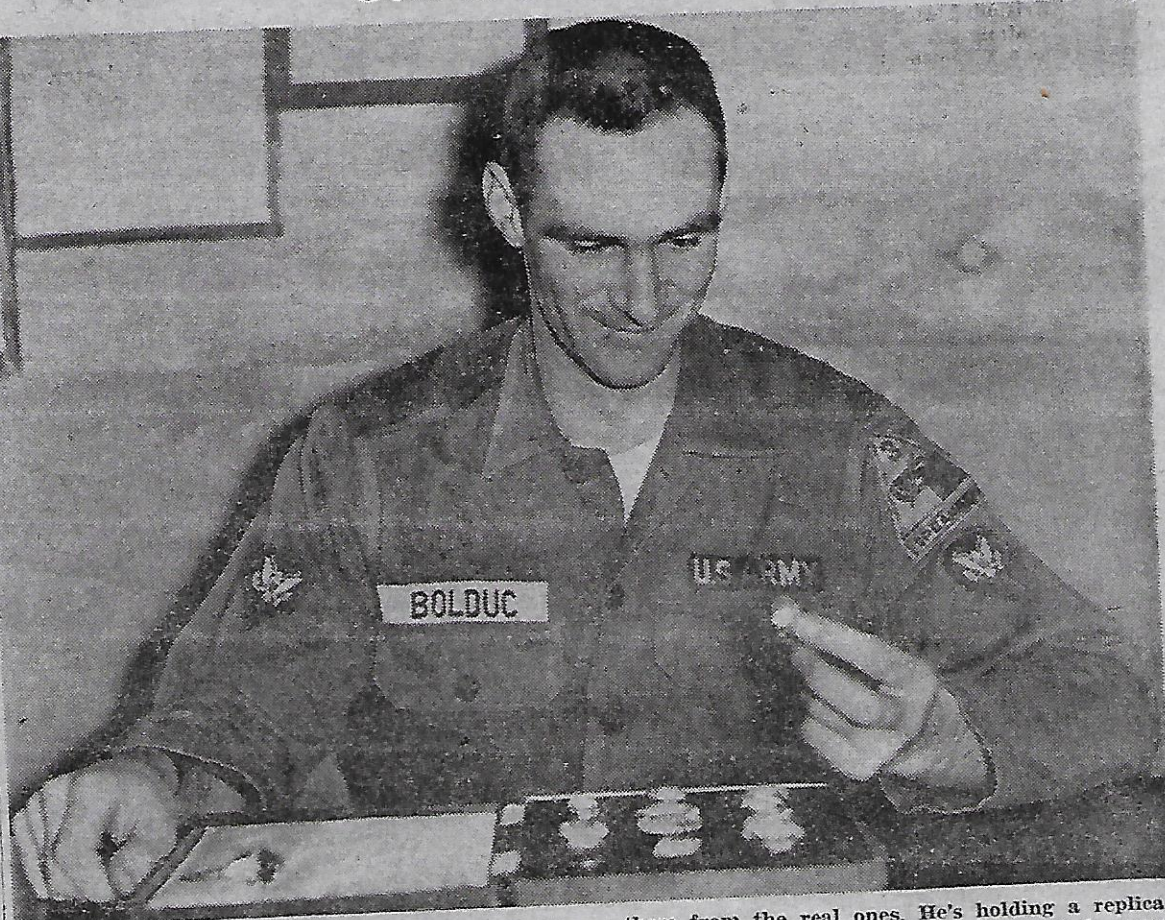


## Gem of a Collection



PERFECT REPLICAS of famous gems compose Sp4 Hector Bolduc's private rock garden. The imitations are so good that only an expert can tell

them from the real ones. He's holding a replica of the famous Regent Diamond. At least, he says it is a replica.  
—Army Photo by Holl

## Diamonds Interest Sp4

By Pfc Robert F. Holl  
27th Artillery

**FRIEDBERG**—The battery clerk of Hqs Btry, 27th Artillery, Sp4 Hector Bolduc, is a collector. He collects anything that interests him and that includes nearly everything.

African weapons, hand-cut glassware, colonial pewter mugs and other objects of handcraftsmanship are his favorite collection items. The real "gem" of his handcraft collections though is his jewel collection. In it are represented some of the world's most precious stones — all, sad to relate, imitation. But even replicas of such sparklers as the Hope Diamond, Regent Diamond and Koh-i-noor Diamond make a striking display.

Bolduc's interest in gems began some years ago in his hometown of Laconia, N.H. With the price of gems what it is, he quickly de-

cided that collecting the originals was out of the question. So, resorting to the next best thing, he contacted a gem cutter and placed an order for replicas made of forged crystal or quartz.

Each replica conformed in dimension, weight and color to the original gem. The order, however, was not filled by return mail since about 250 hours is required to cut, grind and polish each stone. Consequently, Bolduc's collection has been years in the making.

"Hector the collector," as he might well be called, proudly asserts that the stones are so perfectly reproduced, down to the finest flaw, that only an expert can tell the difference between imitation and original.

Bolduc's interests, especially in gems, are not limited to mere collecting. He has lectured before

several clubs on the subject and traveled thousands of miles to view famous gem collections. One leave since his arrival in Europe was spent at Bombay, viewing the private collection of the Giawar of Baroda. K79

Viewing is by invitation only and Bolduc is one of the few people who have seen the entire collection. Special arrangements were made with a mutual friend, another gem collector, for him to see the Baroda gems. The collection, according to the Spearheader, is so vast the viewing alone took over eight hours with about one minute spent on each piece.

His most recent leave was spent in Rome where he viewed the Papal gem collection in the Vatican. He hopes to see other famous European collections in the future though permission to view those behind the Iron Curtain is difficult to obtain.

In the meantime, Bolduc pursues his goal of collecting one replica of every famous diamond in the world.

**Chains Required**

## arning Aids CCC Drivers