

# JOHN BENJAMIN

## ***International Expert and Speaker on Diamonds, Gems & Jewellery***

Jewellery is always in fashion – whether as adornment, investment, or for its status, beauty and craftsmanship.

Broadcaster, speaker, writer, jewellery expert and valuer, John's relaxed and informative style delivers details and knowledge, with a sense of humour and his trademark infectious enthusiasm. He is a consistently entertaining speaker who never fails to engage with his audience, often described as "at the very top of his game." He appeared regularly on the BBC's ever-popular TV *Antiques Roadshow* for 33 years.

His presentations can be informal (for example, for a smaller group of guests or international private clients), or a more formally structured talk for a larger audience. John uses interesting slides and is generous with plenty of anecdotal stories. The extra ingredient of a valuation session is always a popular addition to the main presentation and he is always very happy to answer questions.

John lectures for The Arts Society in addition to his corporate speaking work.

He is a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Arts Scholars in the City of London.

His appointment as Jewellery Advisor to the National Trust keeps him very busy, reviewing and valuing the NT's extensive collections. John was recently elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries (FSA).

A Fellow of the Gemmological Association, John holds the Association's Gem Diamond Diploma (with Distinction) and is Consultant to the Committee of the National Association of Goldsmiths' Registered Valuers Scheme.

John served his apprenticeship at *Cameo Corner*, the Bloomsbury antique jewellers specialising in rare and historic jewellery from Ancient Rome to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

In 1976 he joined Phillips Fine Art Auctioneers as a cataloguer and valuer. He became their International Director of Jewellery, responsible for the auction programmes in London and Geneva.

In 1999, John left Phillips to become an independent jewellery consultant, mainly for private clients.

John lectures extensively worldwide on topics including:

*Diamonds*

*The History of European Jewellery from Elizabeth I to Elizabeth Taylor*

*The Romance of the Jewel: 200 years of English Jewellery Design*

*Jewellery in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*

*The Life and Work of Carl Fabergé*

*Romancing the Stone – the past century of famous ladies and their gems*

Some people are keen to know more about the gems themselves, including their history and provenance, whilst others are interested in the investment value of diamonds and jewellery.

For clients of DBA Speakers, John offers the unique opportunity for informal, on-the-spot valuations for delegates and guests, who bring along a piece of their own jewellery.

*If you would like John to include an informal valuation session in your booking, please ask Diana Boulter.*

## **What people say about John Benjamin as a speaker:**

*"John was extremely helpful in the lead-up to our event. He "tweaked" his presentation for us and the audience were very impressed with him. Anyone who missed it, certainly missed a treat! Very good suggestion from DBA Speakers to book John.."*  
**Berkshire Federation of Women's Institutes**

*"John provided a fantastic afternoon for our members. We have received so many compliments about the day, all saying how much they enjoyed John's talk. He was witty and entertaining, and it was so kind of him to stay to do all those informal valuations! Thanks to Diana from DBA Speakers for recommending him and for accompanying him to ensure all ran so smoothly."*  
**Buckinghamshire Federation of Women's Institutes**

*"We so enjoyed having John to speak at our Meeting. Everyone enjoyed the afternoon with him tremendously."*  
**Glamorgan Federation of Women's Institutes**

*"John was a very entertaining speaker and delivered just what we wanted. He followed the brief and was entertaining, engaging and humorous. We could not have asked for anything more. Thanks to Diana at DBA for suggested him"*  
**Association of Inner Wheel Clubs UK & Ireland**

*"John Benjamin was excellent! The feedback from our members has been wonderful. The really enjoyed hearing about his life and career. DBA Speakers offers a totally professional service balanced with an individual touch. Keep on doing what you do!"*  
**West Sussex Federation of Women's Institutes**

*"Thank you so very much for the wonderful presentation you gave to our members. Your passion, knowledge and enthusiasm for jewellery of all kinds made for a very interesting and fun-filled time. Our members were thrilled to take part in your "mini roadshow" and were delighted to learn about the values of their personal items. Your candour and wonderfully playful demeanour made the event truly memorable. Excellent recommendation from Diana Boulter to book you for our event".*  
**American Women of Surrey**

**For more information and to check John's diary, please call  
Diana Boulter on 07554 440537 or email [diana@dbaspeakers.com](mailto:diana@dbaspeakers.com)**