
GGL-Newsletter #3, Friday, December 3, 2004

Headlines:

*** New GGL shuttle destination: Geneva-Lucerne-Geneva

*** Clarity enhancement of unheated rubies

*** GGL gemmologists on research trips in Burma

*** Research project on corundum deposits in Madagascar by GGL gemmologists

*** New GGL shuttle destination: Geneva-Lucerne-Geneva

And yet another city has come closer to the GGL premises: A daily shuttle service between Geneva and Lucerne starts operating next week. This service is operated by SecurePost, an independent entity of Swiss Post, specialised in the transportation of valuable goods. Thanks to a special agreement between SecurePost and Gübelin Gem Lab, an uninterrupted, fully secured, and professionally managed transport service can be assured, whilst providing a significant reduction in shipping costs. The Geneva Shuttle is yet another destination to be added to our suite of cities, being New York, London and Hong Kong. More destinations to come...

*** Clarity enhancement of unheated rubies

Unheated and heated rubies sometimes display opened fissures that may be filled with a foreign material. During the past few months however, the laboratory has seen an increased number of non-heated rubies that displayed fissures filled with substances (mostly oil-based) to lessen the visibility of these fissures. Such a filling may therefore be regarded as a clarity enhancement. The Gübelin Gem Lab is currently monitoring the situation and learning more on the exact nature of the filling product in question. It is important to note that these products are different from the lead-glass filling substance which has recently been described in non-heated rubies (see GGL-newsletter #2, dated September 3rd, 2004).

*** GGL gemmologists on research trips in Myanmar / Burma

During the next weeks and months, several gemmologists of the Gübelin Gem Lab will be visiting various ruby and sapphire mines in Myanmar, some of which have only been productive for a couple of years. These research trips will help the GGL to update its collection of reference stones, and to analyse and understand the geological environment as well as the gemmological features of the gemstones mined in these deposits.

*** Research project on corundum deposits in Madagascar by GGL gemmologists

GGL research manager Dr. Dietmar Schwarz and gemmologist Christian Dunaigre recently spent 2 weeks in Madagascar to investigate mining activities in Ilakaka. Many samples were collected and a large scale project is currently underway to thoroughly document the gemmological properties of sapphires from this region.

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