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Gubelin Newsletter #33, Tuesday, January 18, 2011

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Headlines:

- \*\*\* Opening of Gubelin take-in window in Hong Kong
- \*\*\* Gubelin research publication on Himalayan red spinel
- \*\*\* Archeogemmological publication on ecclesiastical item
- \*\*\* InColor article on CITES-protected organic gems
- \*\*\* New type of paraíba tourmaline discovered
- \*\*\* Credit card payments via our website

\*\*\* Opening of Gubelin take-in window in Hong Kong:

We are pleased to announce the opening of our new take-in window service in Hong Kong. Clients submitting gems for testing at the Gubelin Gem Lab in Switzerland can now conveniently drop off goods at our Hong Kong office for onward shipping to our lab in Lucerne. The Hong Kong office further provides our clients with any other information our clients wish to receive. Office Administrator Angela Ip and Lab Manager Nicole Surdez, both located permanently in Hong Kong, look forward to answering clients' queries.

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\*\*\* Gubelin research publication on Himalayan red spinel:

Gem spinel deposits related to the Himalayan orogenesis have been studied by Gubelin staff members Anna-Kathrin Malsy and Dr. Leo Klemm. Standard gemmological testing combined with Laser-Ablation ICPMS was applied to more than 130 samples from Burma, Vietnam and Tajikistan with an emphasis on red and pink spinels. The authors decipher the provenance and country of origin of these gems mainly from trace element concentrations, which are very useful considering the relative lack of crystal inclusions in gem-quality spinels. The result of their work is published in a special mineralogy issue of *Chimia* (for this and other articles see the publication site [www.gubelingemlab.ch/Research-and-Development/Publications.php](http://www.gubelingemlab.ch/Research-and-Development/Publications.php)).

\*\*\* Archeogemmological publication on ecclesiastical item:

In collaboration with the Swiss National Museum, Gubelin research scientist Dr. Stefanos Karampelas and Susy Gubelin have been studying the coloured gemstones that adorn a religious artefact made at the end of the 16th century. Gemmological observations and historical records on the object suggest a Sri Lankan origin for some of the gems. These and further findings are published in the Winter issue of *Gems & Gemology*.

\*\*\* InColor article on CITES-protected organic gems:

The latest issue of the magazine *InColor* ([www.gemstone.org](http://www.gemstone.org)) features an article on organic gems (such as pearls, corals and ivories) originating from animals protected by international laws. Authored by Dr. Stefanos Karampelas together with Gubelin Chief Gemmologist Dr. Lore Kiefert, the article mentions examples of organic gems from living organisms listed in Appendices I and II of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) and how they can be identified by gemmological laboratories.

\*\*\* New type of paraíba tourmaline discovered:

Sometimes new types of gemstones are not discovered in the field, but in the lab. So it was with a new type of paraíba tourmaline. So far, paraíba tourmalines have been found to be a variety of the elbaite species. Recently, some stones were submitted to the Gubelin Gem Lab with hue, tone, saturation and spectroscopic characteristics as expected from those of standard paraíba tourmaline. However, advanced chemical analyses showed that these tourmalines were not elbaite, but of the liddicoatite species. More information on this material can be found in the brief article published in the Winter issue of *Gems & Gemology* by Gubelin experts Dr. Stefanos Karampelas and Dr. Leo Klemm: "Neon" blue-to-green Cu- and Mn-bearing liddicoatite tourmaline. The Gubelin lab is certifying these stones as paraíba tourmalines.

\*\*\* Credit card payments via our website:

Launched in the summer of 2010, the Gubelin Gem Lab's new website makes it possible to settle invoices online using a credit card. This helps avoid costly cheque payment and bank transfer charges. To process a credit card payment via the internet, visit our website at [www.gubelingemlab.ch](http://www.gubelingemlab.ch) and click on the relevant icon top right. Please note that for the time being, Visa and MasterCard payments are accepted in USD only.

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The Gubelin Newsletter is issued periodically by the Gubelin Gem Lab and provides concise and up-to-date information on current topics in the jewellery and gemstone industry, as well as news from the Gubelin Gem Lab itself. Your e-mail address is on the distribution list of the Gubelin Gem Lab. To unsubscribe from the mailing list, reply to [info@gubelingemlab.ch](mailto:info@gubelingemlab.ch) and type 'unsubscribe' in the subject line. All previous Gubelin Newsletters can be viewed in the news/archive section of the Gubelin website ([www.gubelingemlab.ch](http://www.gubelingemlab.ch)).

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