
Gubelin Gem Lab News-Flash

Rubies from Tajikistan presented as "Burmese rubies" on the market

Over the past few weeks, gem dealers presented several rubies of good to very good quality in the 5ct to 10ct range to the Gubelin Gem Lab. The stones, which were offered for sale in Bangkok and Yangon, supposedly come from a "New Burmese mine", and display gemmological properties of marble-type ruby deposits. However, advanced microscopic, chemical and spectral analyses show gemmological features that do not match those of the known Burmese deposits of Mogok, Namya Sek and Mong Hsu. On the contrary, they display properties consistent with those described of rubies from the Pamir mountain range in Tajikistan.

A research project of the Gubelin Gem Lab on rubies and pink sapphires from Tajikistan was undertaken in 1998, and the results thereof were published the same year in the 'Journal of Gemmology'.

The gemstones presented to the laboratory display a pinkish-red to red coloration, often combined with a faint bluish sheen, sometimes displayed in rubies from other marble-type deposits such as Vietnam and Afghanistan. Fortunately, traditional and more advanced analyses allow to distinguish these Tajik rubies from those of other known, commercially relevant marble deposit.

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