
Gubelin-Newsletter #17, Monday, March 26, 2007

Headlines:

- *** Double honour for mineralogist Thomas Armbruster
- *** LA-ICP-MS to be operated by a qualified, dedicated scientist
- *** Research project on alexandrites and chrysoberyls
- *** Express service: Gubelin Gem Lab at BASELWORLD

*** Double honour for mineralogist Thomas Armbruster:

The Mineralogical Society of America has announced that it will award the Dana Medal 2008 to Professor Dr. Thomas Armbruster, of Berne University, Switzerland. Professor Armbruster is the first European researcher to receive this prestigious award. (See also www.minsocam.org/MSA/Awards/Dana.html). In addition, the new mineral species 'Armbrusterite', a silicate of potassium, sodium and manganese, has received International Mineralogical Society accreditation, and will be named in honour of Thomas Armbruster. (See also www.minsocam.org/MSA/AmMin/TOC/Abstracts/2007_Abstracts/FM07_Abstracts/Yakovenchuk_p416_07.pdf).

Several of the Gubelin Gem Lab gemmologists are former students of Professor Armbruster, and we are proud to be closely associated with him and his research group.

*** LA-ICP-MS to be operated by a qualified, dedicated scientist:

The Gubelin Gem Lab is unremitting in its quest for technical excellence. For this reason, the lab has recently acquired a Laser-Ablation Inductively-Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometer (LA-ICP-MS). The operation of this highly sophisticated and most complex instrument requires specifically trained specialists, who are knowledgeable in the areas of physico-chemical analysis as well as in Earth Sciences. We now have a dedicated, full-time researcher working with this equipment, to ensure that sound and reliable data are gathered.

*** Research project on alexandrites and chrysoberyls:

Gem-quality alexandrites and chrysoberyls are now available from a large number of sources. This was not always the case. Methods of origin determination must keep pace with this increased supply. For this reason, the Gubelin Gem Lab has initiated a research project to analyse and understand the properties of alexandrites and chrysoberyls from all commercially relevant sources worldwide. This project intends to maintain and enhance the service of origin determination for these gems in the future.

*** Fast service of Gubelin Gem Lab during BASELWORLD:

The Gubelin Gem Lab looks forward to welcoming you at BASELWORLD, April 12-19, 2007. You are cordially invited to visit us at our usual location N09, Hall 3.1. As always, for the duration of the fair, our Express Service will be offered at the standard rate i.e. the express fee will be waived.

Our full range of services on diamonds, coloured gemstones, pearls and jewellery will be available and your items will be analysed and returned to the Gubelin booth within 24 hours (workload permitting). Our next Off-Premise-Testing is planned for mid-June in Bangkok with a further venue New York coming up in mid-August.

The Gubelin Newsletter is issued periodically by the Gubelin Gem Lab and provides short 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, and type 'unsubscribe' in the subject line. All previous Gubelin Newsletters can be viewed under the archive section on the Gubelin homepage (www.gubelingemlab.ch).

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