
Gubelin-Newsletter #21, Wednesday, January 30, 2008

Headlines:

- *** Record year for the Gubelin Gem Lab
- *** Field research: Pearl farming operations in the Mergui archipelago, Burma (Myanmar)
- *** Beryllium in natural unheated sapphires: update article in 'InColor' magazine
- *** Geologist and Laser-Ablation ICP-MS specialist Leo Klemm joins Gubelin
- *** Christian Dunaigre leaves Gubelin to become independent consultant
- *** Sonia Cherchi is named new Head of Client Services at Gubelin

*** Record year for the Gubelin Gem Lab:

The Gubelin Gem Lab, once again, set a new record in the past year. Thanks to the trust placed in us by our clients, the number of gemstones tested in 2007 increased by approximately a third over the previous year. In accordance with the Gubelin Gem Lab's long-term policy, the generated profits are fully reinvested in new analytical equipment, the further training of our gemmologists, visits to mining sites and other research activities. This corresponds with the tradition of the Gubelin Gem Lab to prioritise education and scientific research over conventional sales promotion and PR.

*** Field research: Pearl farming operations in the Mergui archipelago, Burma (Myanmar):

In December, a team of Gubelin gemmologists had the unique opportunity of visiting the operations of the Myanmar Orient Pearl Company, a producer of South Sea cultured pearls situated in the centre of the Mergui archipelago, which is in the south of Burma (Myanmar). Our gemmologists were given a unique insight into the modern pearl farming activities being implemented on Ravenshaw Island. Golden lip oysters, grown exclusively from hatchery, are used in the farming process resulting in the production of golden and silver South Sea cultured pearls. The overall production of South Sea cultured pearls in Burma for the year 2007 is approximately 225 kan.

*** Beryllium in natural unheated sapphires: update article in 'InColor' magazine:

The presence of beryllium in natural, unheated sapphires was first reported in 2005 by Prof. Wathanakul of the GIT Laboratory, Bangkok. Since then, several gemmologists and institutes are conducting research on this subject. In the latest issue of 'InColor' magazine, Gubelin gemmologist Vincent Pardieu provides an update on the current work on this topic.

*** Geologist and Laser-Ablation ICP-MS specialist Leo Klemm joins Gubelin:

We are happy to welcome Dr. Leo Klemm to our team: Leo studied earth sciences at the University of Basel, and wrote his Ph.D. thesis on porphyry-type ore deposits under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Christoph Heinrich at the ETH (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology) in Zurich, Switzerland. Recently he spent time as an exploration geologist at Rio Tinto Iron Ore Atlantic Ltd. in Guinea, West-Africa. Leo is a specialist in mineralogy, geochemistry and fluid inclusions. He also excelled in the Laser-Ablation ICP-MS method, Raman and XRF spectroscopy, the electron microprobe (EMP) and scanning electron microscopy (SEM). At the Gubelin Gem Lab, he is in charge of the Laser Ablation ICP-MS unit and will take care of various research and development projects.

*** Christian Dunaigre leaves Gubelin to become independent consultant:

After 10 years with the Gubelin Gem Lab, Christian Dunaigre is moving on. He joined us as a gemmologist in 1997, coming from the AIGS in Bangkok, and later took over the position of Head of Client Services. He applied his excellent gemmological skills to all areas of the speciality, and made a tremendous contribution to the development of the Gubelin Gem Lab and its services. Beginning April, Christian starts a career as an independent consultant to the gemstone industry, using his extensive knowledge on gemstones, pearls and diamonds to offer advisory services to this industry. We are deeply indebted to Christian for his outstanding work at the Gubelin Gem Lab, and wish him all the best for his future career.

*** Sonia Cherchi is named new Head of Client Services at Gubelin:

Gubelin Gem Lab gemmologist Sonia Cherchi has been appointed Head of Client Services, effective from 1st January, 2008. She takes over from Christian Dunaigre. Having been Deputy Head of Client Services for more than a year, Sonia is perfectly prepared to take over this important function.

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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