
Gubelin Newsletter #28, Thursday, June 19, 2009

Headlines:

- *** New Service: Determination of precious metals
- *** Determination of exact origin of emeralds from Swat Valley in Pakistan possible
- *** 3rd European Gem Symposium a major success

*** New Service: Determination of precious metals:

Following the recent launch of a series of new services (such as the origin determination of spinel, see Gubelin newsletter #27), we are pleased to announce yet another new service. Commencing July, we will be offering analysis of the exact composition of precious metals, including identification of the various qualities of gold, silver, platinum, palladium and other metals and alloys. Laser Ablation ICPMS analysis provides an accurate determination of the precious metal's composition, enabling us to state the type of metal (according to the standards defined by the CIBJO's Precious Metal Book) in the Gubelin Gem Lab Report. We also provide the more specific Gubelin Gem Lab Precious Metal Report, which comprises details of the analysis. These precious metal services are available on request.

*** Determination of exact origin of emeralds from Swat Valley in Pakistan possible:

There have been various reports in the media recently about emeralds from Pakistan's Swat Valley. The Islamist fundamentalist Taliban have reportedly gained control of this area. The assumption is that proceeds from the sale of emeralds are now falling into the hands of the Taliban to finance their activities. Various states and NGOs have long deplored the way in which the Taliban fail to observe basic human rights, including freedom of opinion and women's rights. Some of these organisations are calling for greater transparency regarding the provenance of traded emeralds. While it is possible to determine the provenance of emeralds in general, it is also possible to further identify emeralds originating from Pakistan's Swat Valley. A complete report on our latest trip to the emerald mines in Pakistan and Afghanistan in 2006 can be found in the 'Adventures' section on our website at www.gubelingemlab.ch.

*** 3rd European Gemmological Symposium a major success:

The Swiss Gemmological Society hosted the latest European Gemmological Symposium in Berne from June 4 to 7. Following the 2008 symposium in London, this month's 3rd symposium set a milestone by making this event one of the main research gatherings in gemmology. The event attracted gemmologists from all over Europe and overseas. Crowned by keynote presentations from a highly energetic Martin Rapaport and a charismatic Sir Gabi Tolkowsky, the two days were packed with a wide range of presentations courtesy of specialists from gem labs, the gem trade and auction houses. The first prize for the best scientific poster was awarded to Dr. Leo Klemm and Pierre Hardy, both from the Gubelin Gem Lab, for their contribution on the Determination of Tourmaline Species by Advanced Chemical Analysis.

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 and type 'unsubscribe' in the subject line. All previous Gubelin Newsletters can be viewed in the archive section of the Gubelin website (www.gubelingemlab.ch).

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