
Gubelin Newsletter #35, December 7, 2011

Headlines:

- *** Emerald prices at auctions achieve new heights
- *** More testing services now available at Gubelin Hong Kong lab
- *** Introduction of new service for one-of-a-kind gemstones: GemPortrait
- *** New service for fancy coloured diamonds: Diamond Origin of Colour Report
- *** Research article on a rediscovered deposit of blue and green tourmaline in Australia

*** Emerald prices at auctions achieve new heights:

The November auctions held in Geneva and Hong Kong have seen prices for untreated emeralds reaching levels never achieved before at auction. The “Estrellas de Colombia”, a pair of Colombian emeralds weighing 25.38 and 23.12 carats and mounted in ear-pendants, sold at Christie’s in Hong Kong on November 29 for US\$ 4,036,318, equivalent to US\$ 83,000 per carat. Two weeks earlier, a 12.01 carat emerald sold at Sotheby’s in Geneva for more than US\$ 100,000 per carat. It can safely be assumed that a key factor determining these prices is the untreated state of the stones. Therefore, the fact that buyers are focused on untreated emeralds places a great deal of responsibility on sellers and gem labs alike, bearing in mind that treatment in emeralds is reversible and repeatable at any time.

*** More testing services now available at Gubelin Hong Kong lab:

Following the recent launch of its jadeite testing services, Gubelin Gem Lab Hong Kong announces its next service: emerald identification, treatment and – in most cases – origin determination. Clients can drop their emeralds off at our Hong Kong laboratory, and get them back together with a Gubelin Gem Lab emerald report a few days later. When considered necessary, emeralds might be shipped to Lucerne for more detailed analyses. The Gubelin Gem Lab team in Hong Kong welcomes clients during office hours at its premises: Room 1005, 10/F, Aon China Building, 29 Queens Road, Central, Hong Kong, telephone: +852 2868 2781 or e-mail: hkg@gubelingemlab.ch.

*** Introduction of new service for one-of-a-kind gemstones, Gubelin GemPortrait:

Gemstones of exceptional quality deserve more than just the standard Gubelin Gem Lab report. That is why some of the best gemstones tested at Gubelin feature an appendix that places emphasis on the rarity and quality of the stone; this appendix goes beyond the sober scientific analysis of the gemstone report. Among the stones that earn a Gubelin appendix, some exhibit such an outstanding quality that they surprise even our most seasoned experts. For those exceptional treasures we have now launched the Gubelin GemPortrait; a custom-built book, meticulously crafted and carefully written. The book comprises information on the history of those mines and origins, and sheds light on the reasons why stones from these sources have gained worldwide recognition and become so sought after. This service is currently offered for Kashmir sapphires and Burmese rubies, more to follow. Very restrictive criteria are applied, and only stones of the most outstanding quality will qualify for a Gubelin GemPortrait. Please contact the lab for more information, requirements and prices.

*** New service for fancy coloured diamonds: Diamond Origin of Colour Report:

To better cater for the needs of our clients, we now offer the Diamond Origin of Colour Report, a new service for fancy coloured diamonds. It places emphasis on the authenticity of a diamond’s colour by looking to see if it is natural or treated. The Diamond Origin of Colour

Report excludes all grades according to the GIA system such as colour grade, clarity grade and any cut grades, focusing instead purely on the intrinsic characteristics of the diamond. This type of report can be viewed as purely scientific and comes as a great addition to any reputable diamond grading report.

*** Research article on a rediscovered deposit of blue and green tourmaline in Australia: Tourmaline is gaining in popularity, in response to which the Gubelin Gem Lab is contributing to the correct characterisation of tourmaline minerals. The fall issue of The Australian Gemmologist featured an article by independent gemmologist Francine Payette and Gubelin research analyst Dr. Leo Klemm on a new occurrence of gem-quality green, bluish-green and blue tourmaline from Coolgardie, Western Australia. Originally discovered in 1938, the pegmatite-related tourmaline crystals of the current workings vary in diameter from 1 mm to 55 mm. The largest specimen collected so far weighs more than 3,000 carats. See also the short version of an article on the Gubelin Gem Lab website.

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 news/archive section of the Gubelin website (www.gubelingemlab.ch).

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