
Gubelin Newsletter #40, August 30, 2013

Headlines:

- *** Biography of Dr. Eduard Gubelin
- *** Launch of Gubelin Academy
- *** Update on mining situation and properties of Mogok sapphires
- *** Pushing the limits of analytical excellence: new 193nm Excimer laser
- *** Farewell Dietmar Schwarz

*** Biography of Dr. Eduard Gubelin:

Gubelin continues its celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the famous gemmologist Dr. Eduard Gubelin with a range of activities and events. The comprehensive and richly illustrated biography of his life and work, entitled *100 Years Dr. Eduard Joseph Gubelin - Enduring Values*, will be presented to the public at the September Hong Kong Jewellery & Gem Fair. As announced in our last Newsletter, the Gubelin booth will host a reconstruction of Dr Gubelin's personal workshop – we look forward to welcoming visitors at booth No. 3M057 (3rd floor mezzanine) at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center.

And another exciting event is taking place at our booth: the Gubelin Gem Lab is delighted to invite all our friends and colleagues for a drink in honour of Dr. Eduard Gubelin. This informal event will take place on Sunday, 15 September and starts at 5 pm. We very much look forward to meeting you there.

*** Launch of Gubelin Academy:

With over 150 years experience in selling jewellery and gemstones, a Swiss heritage spanning six generations, and one of the most respected gem testing laboratories in the world, Gubelin is delighted to announce a new and natural development: into the arena of education and training. Launching in Hong Kong, Gubelin Academy will be offering courses and seminars concentrating on the company's long-standing forte of coloured gemstones. Focus will be specifically on the practical and emotional application of coloured gemstone appreciation, aiming to impart the necessary knowledge and passion to understand, acquire and sell coloured gemstones with an informative, useful, and above all inspiring approach. Courses are aimed at trade professionals - particularly retailers, experienced sales staff and specialised dealerships - as well as private clients and connoisseurs of coloured gems. First classes are planned to be held in the late autumn and announced during the Hong Kong Jewellery and Gem fair in September. On Monday, 16 September 2013 at 2:30 pm, the Gubelin Academy's launch seminar will take place in Room S227 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center: *Rarities and Research - Movies from Mogok - Then and Now*. Footage from the 1960s and from July 2013 will be shown embedded in presentations by senior staff from the Gubelin Gem Lab.

*** Update on mining situation and properties of Mogok sapphires:

A more detailed look at sapphire mining activities in Mogok, Burma, will be presented during the September Hong Kong Jewellery & Gem Fair by Gubelin gemmologist Hpone-Phyo Kan-Nyunt at the AsiaWorld-Expo (AWE); his seminar will give an overview of the recent mining situation and the production of rubies, sapphires and spinels in Mogok. It will include the findings of gemmological data from sapphire mines, with an emphasis on the Baw Mar mining area, based on a series of three visits by Gubelin scientists to the Mogok area over the past 10 months. The seminar takes place on Saturday, 14 September 2013 in Room 201A of the AsiaWorld-Expo convention centre from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm.

*** Pushing the limits of analytical excellence: new 193nm Excimer laser:

We respond to the challenges of our industry by constantly developing the skills of our staff and our analytical tools. Our investment in the latest methods and technology help us to recognise and disclose new treatments and origins of gemstones. The Gubelin Gem Lab is the only gemmological laboratory in Europe, and one of the very few labs worldwide, that operates its own Laser-Ablation Inductively-Coupled-Plasma Mass Spectrometry (LA -ICP-MS) system. The LA-ICP-MS is a highly sophisticated instrument for the chemical micro-analysis of solid materials. Over the past couple of years, the importance of LA -ICP-MS in gemmology has grown in cases where other analytical techniques are insufficient, such as in the detection of beryllium or lithium diffusion. We have now taken yet another major leap and have updated our Laser-Ablation unit with a latest generation ESI Excimer laser with 193nm wavelengths. Cutting-edge technology of this kind allows us to keep abreast with today's and tomorrow's challenges of analysing trace and ultra-trace elements.

*** Farewell, Dietmar Schwarz:

After exactly 20 years, Gubelin gemmologist and Head of Research, Dr. Dietmar Schwarz, is leaving us. Dietmar is one of the most renowned and internationally acknowledged scientists in the field of gemmology. He is a member of the International Gemmological Conference (IGC) and has authored and co-authored dozens of gemmological publications in scientific journals. He regularly lectured at various Asian universities, mainly in China and Thailand. To those who know him, it comes as no surprise that he is moving on to Thailand, where he has accepted the position of Director at the Asian Institute of Gemmological Sciences (AIGS). We thank Dietmar for his achievements over the past 20 years at the Gubelin Gem Lab and wish him all the best for the future.

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

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