
GGL-Newsletter #9, Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Headlines:

- *** Field trip to Brazil provides new insight about Paraíba tourmalines, emeralds and alexandrites
- *** DMCC launches new Gem Certification Service for the Middle East
- *** Alrosa and Kristall executives visit Dubai for the launch of the new Dubai cut diamond
- *** Dr. Eduard Gubelin donated his personal working collection of gemstones to GGL

*** Field trip to Brazil provides new insight about Paraíba tourmalines, emeralds and alexandrites:

GGL staff had the chance to visit several gem-producing localities in the Brazilian states of Minas Gerais, Paraíba (Sao Jose da Batalha mine) and Rio Grande do Norte (Quintos de Baixo mine and Boqueirao area). This region became known world-wide at the end of the eighties when tourmalines displaying a hitherto unknown spectrum of colours were discovered and became known as "Paraíba tourmalines" in the trade.

Recently, tourmalines with a comparable colour spectrum appeared from the pegmatite localities in the Alto Ligonha region in Mozambique. The size range of these stones is mostly from 0.5 to 4 ct, but faceted stones up to 25 ct are available. The GAAJ-Zenhokyo lab in Tokyo has conducted initial research on this new Mozambique material, and the GGL has now started to search for gemmological criteria which allow the differentiation of these stones from Brazilian and Nigerian samples.

In Minas Gerais, our gemmologists visited the Itabira-Nova Era region, which is famous especially for its deposits of emeralds, aquamarines and alexandrites. While the trade is familiar with the traditional sites of Belmont, Capoeirana and Pitera mines, a few months ago, a new emerald deposit has been opened, situated 3-4 kilometres NW of the Belmont site, mined by a company called "Mineracao Rocha".

The last visit was to the world-known Hematita alexandrite occurrence in Antonio Dias County, which is famous for its high-quality alexandrite originating from an alluvial site. Mining is now also conducted in the primary host rock.

*** DMCC launches new Gem Certification Service for the Middle East:

The establishment of the Dubai Gem Certification services (DGC) for diamonds, gemstones, pearls and jewellery items was announced in December 2004 by the Dubai Metals and Commodities Centre (DMCC). The GGL is one of the three strategic partners of the DMCC chosen for this service, together with American Gem Society Laboratories (AGS) and the Directorate of Precious Metals & Gem Stones Testing, Kingdom of Bahrain. According to Tawfic Farah, Executive Director of the DMCC, this initiative allows the gems and jewellery trade in the region to be provided with the means to apply international standards in the Middle East, and promote ethical and transparent trade practices.

*** Alrosa and Kristall executives visit Dubai for the launch of the new Dubai cut diamond:

Last week, the DMCC hosted the launch of the new Dubai cut diamond with 99 facets, exclusively produced by Kristall Corporation, the largest Russian polished diamond manufacturer. The GGL and other selected representatives from the diamond and gemstone industry were invited to meet Maxim Shkadov, General Director of Kristall Smolensk, Alexander Nichiporuk and Sergei Ulin, President and Vice-President of Alrosa, respectively, and had the privilege of learning about their strategic goals and of discussing the function of Dubai as a regional centre for the diamond industry in the Middle East.

*** Dr. Eduard Gubelin donated his personal working collection of gemstones to GGL:

Over the last years the late Dr. Eduard Gubelin continually donated his personal working collection of coloured gemstones to the GGL. The rubies, sapphires and other coloured gemstones in this collection were used by Dr. Gubelin as the actual master stones for origin determination, because of their distinct diagnostic properties. After his retirement the GGL continued to work closely with Dr. Gubelin and had the privilege of using and inheriting his personal research material. The collection has been incorporated into the existing GGL collection of reference samples, consisting of thousands of gemstones, covering all relevant mines and more worldwide, from the early 20th century until today. Dr. Gubelin's donation

continues to strengthen the position of the GGL as the laboratory setting the standards for origin determination in coloured gemstones.

The GGL Newsletter is issued periodically by the Gubelin Gem Lab intending to provide short and in-time information on hot topics in the jewellery and gemstone industry, as well as news from the GGL itself. All previous GGL Newsletters can be viewed in the archive section of the GGL homepage (www.gubelingemlab.ch)

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