
Gubelin Newsletter #38, December 4, 2012

Headlines:

- *** Mining in Burma gains momentum, attracts Gubelin gemmologists
- *** Gubelin Lab tightens criteria for Golconda diamonds
- *** Gubelin Lab offers Off-Premise Testing services at IJT in Japan
- *** Academic achievement of Gubelin gemmologist Anna Malsy
- *** Breaking records: the Archduke Joseph Diamond

*** Mining in Burma gains momentum, attracts Gubelin gemmologists:

The relaxing political situation in Burma might be one reason for various reports of increased mining activity in the country, notably the Mogok Stone Tract. To keep track of the latest developments, Gubelin gemmologists and geologists have been travelling throughout Burma in recent months, and have also had the chance to visit the valleys of Mogok and Kyat-pyin. This extensive field trip offered a valuable insight into the latest mining activities in the area, and provided a large number of fresh, authentic samples for the Gubelin Reference Collection, gathered first-hand in the mines and directly from mine owners.

*** Gubelin Lab tightens criteria for Golconda diamonds:

According to Gubelin Gem Lab policy, the Golconda appendix applies to type IIa diamonds above 5ct with D colour (fancy colours are considered separately) and IF or potentially IF clarity, displaying an antique cutting style. In order to further protect the authenticity of the Golconda denomination, we have decided to accept for consideration only stones with an antique cutting style showing signs of wear and age which are expected of a diamond that has been around for a long time. Naturally, diamonds identified by the Gubelin Gem Lab as Golconda can still be later slightly re-polished in order to fully reach their IF clarity potential and to improve their finish. Upon re-examination, those diamonds can be re-identified and granted an updated appendix, so long as their appearance has not been modified in any major way. At the same time, we are in the process of developing another appendix that pays tribute to stones with the similar outstanding quality characteristics which do not qualify for a Golconda appendix.

*** Gubelin Lab offers Off-Premise Testing services at IJT in Japan:

The Gubelin Gem Lab takes pride in announcing, that for the very first time, it will offer testing services in Japan. We consider the 24th International Jewellery Tokyo in January 2013 to be an excellent opportunity for offering our services and know-how to the Japanese jewellery trade. Our on-site team, including Chief Gemmologist Dr. Lore Kiefert and Head of Research Dr. Dietmar Schwarz, is looking forward to meeting existing and future customers. The Gubelin Gem Lab team may be found at booth No. B17-48, East Hall 5, Tokyo Big Sight, January 23 – 26, 2013.

*** Academic achievement of Gubelin gemmologist Anna Malsy:

Gubelin gemmologist Anna Malsy has completed her PhD studies and successfully passed the defence of her doctor's thesis. Started in 2008, her work has been jointly supervised and sponsored by Professor Thomas Armbruster and the Gubelin Gem Lab. Prof. Armbruster – awarded the prestigious Dana Medal of the Mineralogical Society of America in 2008 – is professor of Mineralogical Crystallography at the Institute of Geological Sciences of the University of Berne. Anna Malsy has written her PhD on the chemical, spectroscopic and structural properties of red spinels and alexandrites, and has established a strongly improved foundation for the origin determination and identification of treatments of these gemstones at the Gubelin Gem Lab.

*** Breaking records: the Archduke Joseph Diamond:

Realising a price in excess of CHF 20 million, the recent sale of the 76 ct Archduke Joseph Diamond has broken multiple world auction records for a colourless diamond, for a colourless Golconda diamond and for a colourless diamond on a per-carat basis, according to Christie's Geneva, the auction house that sold the stone. The Gubelin Gem Lab had the privilege of grading this stone: from the Lab's perspective, the Archduke Joseph Diamond ranks in the top ten of prestigious antique, large type IIa diamonds featuring D-Colour and IF clarity.

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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