
Gubelin Newsletter #41, December 17, 2013

Headlines:

- *** Gubelin's criteria for pigeon-blood red colour call on ruby
- *** Off-Premise-Testing services at International Jewellery Tokyo in January
- *** Transfer of responsibilities at Gubelin Gem Lab Hong Kong
- *** New shuttle service between New York and Hong Kong
- *** 33rd International Gemmological Conference

*** Gubelin's criteria for pigeon-blood red colour call on ruby:

Traders and privates aiming for the very best rubies are aware of the impact that the term 'pigeon-blood red' on their gem report can make. We are asked constantly about the criteria that Gubelin Gem Lab applies to rubies in order for the highly sought-after trade colour to be mentioned in a report. Here are the guidelines: first and most importantly, the hue of the stone must fit in the strictly defined range given by our master stones, ranging from pure red to red with a minute purplish modifier; further, pigeon-blood red candidates must possess a saturated colour and medium tone. Just a small number of untreated, natural rubies of good quality can qualify: only a few, small eye-visible fractures are allowed, they must be free of eye-visible opaque or dark inclusions, with high transparency, homogeneous colour and colour distribution, and with only minor windowing or extinction. Originally coined for the best rubies from Mogok, Burma, pigeon-blood red implies what the late Dr. Eduard Gubelin described as "...*the gorgeous glowing colour of smoldering red fire beneath its shining, lacquer-like surface (...) the crown of all the beauty, the noblest and most precious nuance is pigeon blood red, a saturated shade of carmine red. The more glowing, the more vivid is the red sparkle, the choicer and more costly is the ruby.*" Based on his reference to that inner glow, we test each ruby carefully for its medium to high fluorescence excited under a wavelength of 365nm. Gubelin Gem Lab does not apply any restrictions to the country of origin; however, so far we have not come across any rubies from outside Burma that fulfil all criteria.

In summary, the term pigeon-blood red as defined by Gubelin is much more than just a specific hue; it is a mark of distinction for which only a small number of rubies qualify.

*** Off-Premise-Testing services at International Jewellery Tokyo in January:

For the second time, Gubelin Gem Lab will offer on-site testing services for all types of coloured gemstones during IJT 2014, International Jewellery Tokyo, which takes place from 22 to 25 January, at Tokyo Big Sight, Japan. A team of Gubelin gemmologists from our labs in Switzerland and Hong Kong will welcome you at Venue B, General Jewellery Area, Booth No. B9-19.

On Friday, 24 January from 1pm to 2pm, Gubelin Gem Lab will held an exciting seminar entitled 'Classification and application of trade colour calls by Gubelin Gem Lab', the exact location at the fair to be confirmed.

*** Transfer of responsibilities at Gubelin Gem Lab Hong Kong:

Since its establishment in 2010, Gubelin Gem Lab Hong Kong has seen much progress and quick growth. This has been achieved by a great team under the supervision of our on-site manager, Nicole Surdez. The local responsibility for Gubelin Gem Lab Hong Kong can now be handed over to Angela Ip, Office Manager Gubelin Gem Lab HK, and Hpone-Phyo Kan-Nyunt, Lab Manager Gubelin Gem Lab HK. Angela and Hpone will cooperate closely with the management of Gubelin Gem Lab in Switzerland, to ensure full consistency between the two units. This transfer of responsibilities will be completed by the end of December 2013.

We gratefully acknowledge Nicole's outstanding commitment and dedication in building up Gubelin Gem Lab Hong Kong and we wish her all the best in her future activities. The new management team in Hong Kong is well prepared to pursue further growth of our services in Asia, working in line with Gubelin Gem Lab methods, standards, values and principles.

*** New shuttle service between New York and Hong Kong:

As of now, our New York clients may ship their emeralds to the Gubelin Gem Lab in Hong Kong for the same testing services. Provided the invoice for Gubelin services is at least USD 500, the shipping costs will be absorbed by Gubelin Gem Lab, apart from a mandatory shipping insurance fee of 0.10% of the declared value, which is chargeable to the client. Submit the emeralds together with a completed Gubelin Order Form (please use the updated versions for both labs from our website!) and shipping memo, and contact our forwarding agent Malca Amit USA (tel: +1 212 840 8330, or mail: sales.nyc@malca-amit.com) to schedule your shipment. Please indicate that shipping fees are on a 'collect' basis.

*** 33rd International Gemmological Conference:

In October, members of the International Gemmological Conference (IGC) gathered for their biennial meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam. Gubelin's research scientist Dr. Stefanos Karamelas presented some of the latest results on samples from new mines of blue sapphires and emeralds in Burma and Brazil, as well as an update on pearl cultivation in Mexico and studies of cavities in natural and cultured pearls without bead. Following the conference, a group of scientists visited ruby and spinel mines in Yen Bai province in northern Vietnam.

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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