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Gubelin Newsletter #39, June 19, 2013

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Headlines:

- \*\*\* Burma focus: Mogok-fieldtrips and seminars in Mandalay and Yangon
- \*\*\* 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of the late Dr. Eduard Gubelin
- \*\*\* Fieldtrip to Brazilian emerald, tourmaline and topaz mines
- \*\*\* Gubelin Gem Lab launches extended version of its Pearl Grading Report
- \*\*\* New Golconda Appendix and other diamond appendices

\*\*\* Burma focus: Mogok-fieldtrips and seminars in Mandalay and Yangon:

Burma remains the pre-eminent source of blue sapphires, combining high quality and renown with an enduring supply. Ever since it was first established, the Gubelin Gem Lab has conducted field research in the famous Mogok Valley. Following on from the many visits made by Dr. Gubelin between 1960 and 2000, Gubelin scientist were able to visit Mogok in December 2004 shortly before a long hiatus of more than eight years during which no foreigners were allowed to enter Mogok. The area became more accessible once again just recently, and last October and November Gubelin gemmologists conducted a long and successful fieldtrip to more than 60 mines throughout the wider Mogok area, i.e. Thabeik Kyin, Kyat Pyin, Mogok and Momeik. They collected authentic samples, thus strengthening the basis for determining the origin of sapphires. Gubelin staff re-visited the area last week, and in July Gubelin researchers will again study the local geology of the mines in the wider Mogok area. The Gubelin Gem Lab gratefully acknowledges the kind support of the authorities of the Republic of Myanmar for the privilege of being the first foreigners to be granted permission to revisit the Mogok area. On July 19 and 20, the Gubelin Gem Lab is organising and sponsoring seminars in Mandalay and Yangon for the local gem trade community.

\*\*\* 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of the late Dr. Eduard Gubelin:

This year we are celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Dr Eduard Gubelin, the famous gemmologist, scientist and writer, and the father of origin determination in coloured gemstones. The author of countless publications, articles, books and films was born on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 1913 and devoted his entire life of 92 years to studying and writing about gemmology. Among his most famous publications are the three volumes of the *Photoatlas of Inclusions in Gemstones*, which is used and admired all over the world by professional gemmologists and private gem enthusiasts alike.

The Gubelin Gem Lab is staging a range of activities this year in memory of its founder, starting with an event at the BaselWorld Trade Fair in April. The Gubelin Group is also writing and editing an extensive biography of his life and work entitled *100 Years Dr. Eduard Joseph Gubelin - Lasting Values*. The English version of the book is to be presented at the September trade fair in Hong Kong. The Gubelin stand at the September Trade Fair in Hong Kong will also feature a reconstruction of Dr Gubelin's personal workshop, with many of his original instruments and equipment, papers, samples, personal letters, and other authentic documents from his estate. Clients are warmly invited visit the Gubelin booth No. 3M057 (3<sup>rd</sup> floor mezzanine) at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center,

\*\*\* Fieldtrip to Brazilian emerald, tourmaline and topaz mines:

Gubelin Gem Lab researchers recently conducted a two-week fieldtrip to various mines in the Minas Gerais state of Brazil. Samples were collected from the classic tourmaline, topaz and emerald mines as well as from a new emerald occurrence south-east of Governador Valadares and the alexandrite mine of Hematita. The researchers also visited companies treating Brazilian gemstones to gain a better understanding of the mechanisms used in the enhancement processes.

\*\*\* Gubelin Gem Lab launches extended version of its Pearl Grading Report:

The Gubelin Pearl Grading Reports for cultured pearls with beads are now available in an extended version. In addition to the standard Pearl Grading Report, the extended report includes a large colour photograph of the pearl strand or jewellery, overlaid with a semi-transparent page listing the diameter of each individual pearl, and further details in case of a strand consisting of pearls with inhomogeneous properties. To see a sample of the extended and standard Gubelin Pearl Grading Reports visit our website at [www.gubelingemlab.ch/Laboratory-Services/Pearl-Reports.php](http://www.gubelingemlab.ch/Laboratory-Services/Pearl-Reports.php).

\*\*\* New Golconda Appendix and other diamond appendices:

For many years the Gubelin Gem Lab has been issuing two different appendices on Type IIa diamonds, known informally as the Type IIa Appendix and the Golconda Appendix. They are now to be replaced by two completely revised appendices and one entirely new appendix. Featuring more detailed information they provide a better description of the three types of diamond with specific information, including some historical background and pictures for two of them. All the appendices now have an official name, which is displayed on the cover page.

By increasing order of importance they are as follows:

- 'Finest Water' Appendix: Type II diamond of more than 5 ct, with exceptional colour and clarity.
- 'Olde Water' Appendix: Type II diamond of more than 5 ct, with exceptional colour and clarity, featuring an antique-style cut.
- 'Golconda' Appendix: Type II diamond of more than 5 ct, with exceptional colour and clarity, and a genuine / original antique cut (as observed on top-quality historical diamonds from Golconda).

Examples of these three new appendices will shortly be posted on the Gubelin Gem Lab's website for consultation.

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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](mailto: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](http://www.gubelingemlab.ch)).

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