
Gubelin Newsletter #44, 13 May 2015

Headlines:

- *** Most expensive coloured gemstone ever sold at auction
- *** Field trips to Tanzania, Kenya and Sri Lanka
- *** Presentations at GAHK seminar during June fair in Hong Kong

*** Most expensive coloured gemstone ever sold at auction:

Last November, Sotheby's auctioned an eight carat ruby from Burma for a price just below US\$ 1 million per carat. That world record only lasted six months: Yesterday night in Geneva, the same auction house sold a 25.59 ct Burmese ruby for US\$ 30.38 million. This is the highest price ever paid for a coloured gemstone at auction. With US\$ 1.18 million per carat, it is also the highest per carat price for a ruby. The stone, dubbed "The Sunrise Ruby", is accompanied by a Report and Appendix from the Gubelin Gem Lab, and has fulfilled all criteria to qualify for the term "pigeon-blood red".

*** Field trips to Tanzania, Kenya and Sri Lanka:

We keep saying that doing origin determination in gemstones is a very demanding task. Prerequisites include the very best analytical equipment, highly experienced gemmologists that are trained in earth sciences, as well as a collection of reference material that covers all commercially relevant deposits worldwide. To keep this collection up-to-date, we are constantly travelling mines and markets: the most recent visits include trips to mines in the Beruwala and Ratnapura areas in Sri Lanka. Aside of collecting samples of blue, pink and yellow sapphires, we could also look into treaters' ovens, and talk with miners and dealers about the volumes and qualities of the recent production coming out of Sri Lankan mines. Another fieldtrip led us to Tanzania, where ruby production reportedly is slow due to the position of Mozambique as the dominant supplier of East African ruby. In contrast, the tanzanite mines in Merelani, are fairly productive, and some mines even yield a small percentage of naturally blue stones that do not require heat treatment.

*** Presentations at GAHK seminar during June fair in Hong Kong:

The Gemmological Association of Hong Kong is going to hold a seminar during the Hong Kong Jewellery and Gem Fair in June. The seminar takes place on June 27th, and includes two presentations of Gubelin staff; Hpone-Phyo Kan-Nyunt, Lab Manager of the Gubelin Gem Lab in Hong Kong, presents insights gained during the latest fieldtrips, while Daniel Nyfeler, Managing Director of the Gubelin Gem Lab, talks about new methods and concepts that leading gem labs have to embrace to cope with current and future challenges.

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 email address is on the distribution list of the Gubelin Gem Lab. To unsubscribe from the mailing list, reply to info@gubelingemlab.com 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.com).

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