

# JEWELLERY NEWS ASIA

ASIA'S LEADING NEWS MAGAZINE FOR THE JEWELLERY BUSINESS, GEM TRADE AND WATCH INDUSTRY



## Beryllium-diffused blue sapphires found in Bangkok market

The discovery of beryllium-diffused blue sapphires in the Bangkok market in recent months has led to slower sales of blue sapphires, particularly those of 2 carats or less, while those from 3 carats up move only if they are accompanied by certificates, Bangkok-based gem dealers told *Jewellery News Asia*.

The beryllium-diffused blue sapphires come from certain heat treaters in Chantaburi, Thailand, where the beryllium-diffused orange-pink sapphires – which created market controversy in 2002 and 2003 – also originated.

But unlike the time when the beryllium-diffused padparadscha-colour sapphires came into the market, this time the heat treaters are cooperating with international labs, freely giving them information on what they have done with the stones, said a lab official. Report begins on page 36.

## South Sea, Tahitian pearl prices strengthening

The continuing upward movement of South Sea pearl and Tahitian pearl prices has been confirmed at pearl auctions held in February and March. Commercial goods continue to increase in price while better-quality pearl prices are generally stable. Large baroques are the hottest item, with very limited supply and rocketing prices. See pearl market updates starting from page 57.

Asian companies are expected to have a strong presence at the upcoming BaselWorld 2006. Nearly 400 jewellery manufacturers and suppliers of gemstones and other related products and services from Asia are getting set for the fair, to be held in Basel in Switzerland in April. A broad array of designs from opulent to modern and delicate are to be displayed by Asian companies, including this sumptuous golden South Sea pearl necklace from Philippines-based Jewelmer International Corp and these chalcedony earrings accented with diamonds and blue sapphires made by Hong Kong-based Magia Ltd





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## Colour-change gemstone from Turkey launched

A variety of mineral diaspore, unique to Turkey, that changes colour from light green to purplish-pink, has been introduced by Zultanite Gems LLC in Florida in the United States.

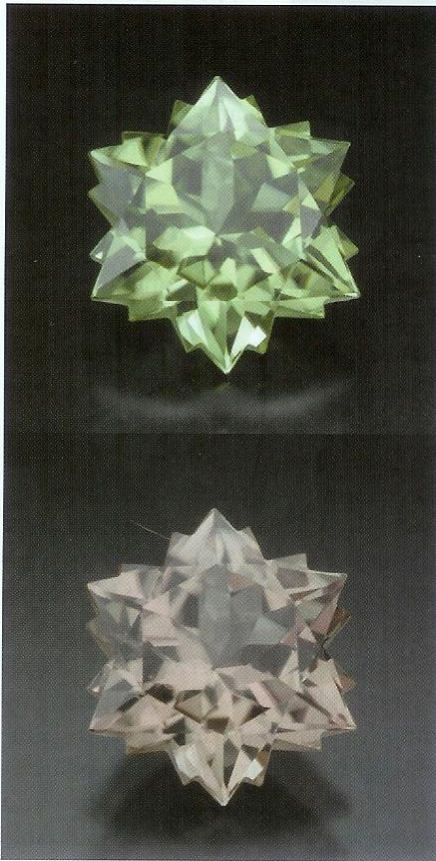
The gemstone, called Zultanite, uncovered in the Anatolia region, is



available faceted from its source in a remote, mountainous region in Anatolia in Turkey, the supplier said. Gem-quality crystals were first discovered there in the early 1980s, but never mined commercially until Zultanite Gems LLC obtained the deposit.

According to a partner in Zultanite Gems LLC, Murat Akgun, the

beauty and intriguing nature of Zultanite lies in its subtle nuances of colour under different lighting condi-



Jeff Scovill

tions. At its best, Zultanite transforms from a kiwi green to a rhodolite purplish-pink. The same stone also can show a khaki-green to

brownish-pink, or a pinkish-champagne to ginger colour change, depending on the light. "You can easily see the kiwi green when the stone is viewed outdoors in daylight, except under direct sunlight, which is not good for viewing any gem," Mr Akgun said. "Yellow flashes are noticeable under sunny skies, but a rich champagne colour is seen under traditional indoor lighting. In low light, the same stone reveals pink to raspberry hues. You must experiment with many light sources to see the wonderful variety of hues in Zultanite."

Among Zultanite's attributes, in addition to its unique colour change, are its colour saturation, scintillation and durability. "Zultanite is as hard as tanzanite or amethyst, as brilliant as sapphire and as entertaining as alexandrite," he said. "It registers 6.5-7 on the Mohs hardness scale, and has a refractive index of 1.702-1.750 and a specific gravity of 3.39, making it suitable for fine jewellery design."

Zultanite is a transparent Type-II gemstone, which means it's typically eye-clean with some inclusions under magnification, but it possesses phenomenal gemstone properties like

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Tel: (852) 2827 6211 Fax: (852) 2960 0977 E-mail: info@jewellerynetasia.com

  
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### Gemmological properties of Zultanite

- A variety of mineral diaspore
- 6.5-7 on the Mohs hardness scale
- Transparent Type-II stone
- Refractive index of 1.702-1.750
- Specific gravity of 3.39
- Colour changes from light green to purplish-pink
- Faceted stones from 3 to 5 carats

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colour change and cat's eye tendencies.

Like diamonds, Zultanite's perfect cleavage also makes it one of the most difficult stones to cut. "It's easy for the



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gem to cleave or split apart in one direction," Mr Akgun added. "The cutter has to orient the rough correctly to minimise this tendency. Moreover, the cutter must position

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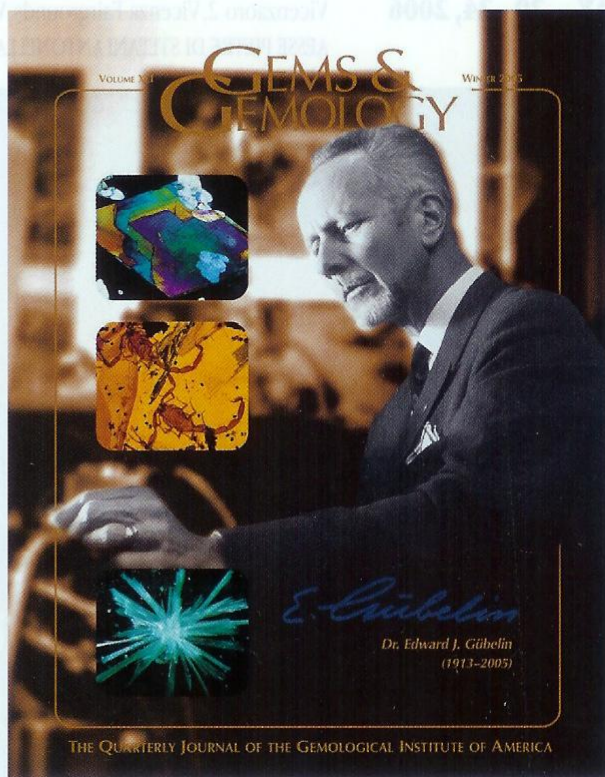
## Gems & Gemology Winter Issue features Edward Gubelin tribute

A special tribute to Swiss gemmologist Dr Edward J. Gubelin has been published in the Winter 2005 issue of *Gems & Gemology* (*G & G*) by the Gemological Institute of America (GIA).

Best known for his groundbreaking studies of inclusions, the late Dr Gubelin (1913-2005) was also a prolific author, an explorer of gem localities, an innovator in gem-testing instruments, and an influential educator. This article, written by gemmologist Robert E. Kane and a team of co-authors, examines the

many dimensions of his career, including his role in developing the Gubelin Gem Lab. It includes dozens of archival photos, an illustrated timeline, and a two-page supplement on the many books he wrote.

“Dr Gubelin was a universally respected figure whose work profoundly influenced the way we study gems today,” *G&G* editor-in-chief, Alice Keller, said. “By shedding new light on his contributions, this article will inspire the gemologists and researchers who follow in his footsteps.” **JNA**



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the gem's angles to evoke the full colour change inherent in Zultanite. Combine this with Zultanite's low yield, translating into 90 percent of the rough being lost in the cutting process. This is one of the reasons Zultanite is so hard to find in large sizes: more than 5 carats is rare." The typical size range available from Zultanite Gems is 3 carats to 5 carats, with some exceptional pieces reaching 14 carats. The bigger the stone, the more noticeable the colour change."

The Zultanite deposit – located in a remote area in Anatolia at an altitude of over 1,333 metres – is enor-

mous, spanning thousands of acres, he said. “Bringing electricity and water to the mine are our biggest challenges, as the nearest village is seven miles away. In the meantime, Zultanite Gems is using traditional mining methods to recover material. Although we're not able to confirm reserve figures, supplies seem promising based on preliminary reports by Turkish geologists.”

Mr Akgun said the company is securing the land and preparing for steady production. “Our engineers are planning a mining strategy, and the mine should begin producing regularly by 2006.” **JNA**