

NEWSLETTER No. 2, September 2005

Dear SSEF Alumni Members



Now that the summer holidays are over, we from the **SSEF Alumni** team would like to get the ball rolling with the publication of our second newsletter.

We are planning some exciting events, i.e. a lecture on the **Jade Road by Mr George Bosshart**, there will be a diamond excursion to London, an outing to the Grimsel caves... The interesting articles and notes might stimulate you into sharing some of your knowledge or gemmological experiences with us. If you have an interesting, amusing, unusual story to relate, feel free to contact us, your inputs will be very much appreciated.

I am very much looking forward to renewing acquaintances and to meeting many new Alumni members at these events.

Leon Ascot, President of SSEF Alumni

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SSEF Alumni Events:

First SSEF Alumni Gem Lecture (free entry)

Monday, 17th October, at 7 pm, Restaurant Falcone in Zurich



The Jade Road: From Burma's mines to China's Jade Markets
by George Bosshart, gemmologist, SSEF Alumni member

Silk road ? I know. The Jade road, what's that ?

In the past ten years, this former trading route has been reactivated since jade, not only popular but highly worshipped by the Chinese, may be used again and accordingly is being imported in great quantities. Extraction, transportation, manufacturing, trading, use and significance of jade differ from those of other gem and ornamental materials.

Pictorial impressions and material insights, collected on two treks to the border areas of the Kachin State and Yunnan Province as well as in the gigantic jewellery shopping centres of China's eastern metropolis.

Please contact Leon Ascot at info@ssef-alumni.org, when you are interested to participate at the this lecture. The location is the Restaurant Falcone, Birmensdorferstrasse 150, 8003 Zurich. After the lecture, we will take a small dinner together with George Bosshart at the restaurant.

GAHK Seminar in Hong Kong (free entry)

at the Hong Kong Jewellery & Watch Fair, 23rd Sept. 2005, 2.30 - 3.30 pm

organised by the Gemmological Association of Hong Kong Limited



Ruby treatment & origin determination disclosure to customers

By Dr. Michael S. Krzemnicki, SSEF

Rubies are among the most priced and appreciated gemstones in the market. Product description regarding origin and enhancement are major issues. An overview about the treatment methods for ruby, focusing on the importance of disclosure of such treatments to consumers will be presented. Furthermore, the possibilities and limitations of origin determination of rubies will be discussed.

If you are interested in attending this seminar, please send an e-mail directly to:

gahkl@gmail.com

First SSEF Alumni excursion:

Visit the famous Crystal Cave at the Grimsel in the Swiss Alps

On Sunday 9th October we plan a guided visit to the crystal cave at the power station at the Grimsel in the Swiss Alps. During this visit, you will get a insight into mineral formation in the Swiss Alps and certainly will see a lot of large rock crystals still in their original cave.

If you want to take part in this trip please contact Leon Ascot info@ssef-alumni.org . When we know how many would like to come we can make the final arrangement.



Second SSEF Alumni excursion:

Visit the Diamond Exhibition in London



From July 2005 till February 2006 there is an extraordinary Diamond Exhibition in the Natural History Museum in London (UK). There is a plan to go to the Gem-A conference (see below) and the day before or afterwards (**29 October or 1 November 2005**) to go to the Exhibition. We try to get a special tour by one of the conservators.



If you want to take part in this visit to the exhibition please contact Peter Groenenboom peter@edelsteen.nl When we know how many would like to come we can make arrangements with a hotel and for transportation.

Gemmological Conference in London

Gem-A Conference to celebrate the life and work of Prof Dr Edward Gübelin

This year's Gemmological Association Conference, to be held on **Sunday 30 October** at the Renaissance London Heathrow Hotel, is to be dedicated to Professor Dr Edward Gübelin, who sadly died earlier this year. The theme of the Conference, "THE INSIDE STORY: THE INCLUSIONS IN GEMSTONES" recognises Professor Gübelin's lifetime study of the internal features that can help to distinguish gems.



Brought together to celebrate the work of Professor Gübelin, is a panel of top international gemmologists (including Prof. Henry A. Hänni from SSEF), who will be speaking on origin determination, the latest lead-glass infilling of rubies, the identification of gems appearing in

jewellery on the UK market today, and many other aspects of the internal world of gemstones – essential information for those in the jewellery trade and, increasingly, consumers.

The fee for the Conference to include a buffet lunch and VAT is £105. For further details of the Conference and information and charges for the additional events visit directly the Gem-A website at www.gem-a.info/conference2005

For those who want to participate at the Gem-A Conference in London, please contact Peter Groenenboom peter@edelsteen.nl. When we know how many would like to come we can make arrangements with a hotel and transportation.

Gemmological Articles and Notes:

Pearls & the Arabian Gulf in the 21st century

by Nick Sturman, August 2005

During the recent GemmoBasel 2005 Colloquium organized by the SSEF, I gave a powerpoint presentation on the subject above. Subsequently, Michael Krzemnicki contacted me with a request to write a short article on the same subject for publication in this newsletter, so that all the SSEF alumni members could benefit from some of the information I shared with those present at the Colloquium. Some of the information contained in this article was not given at the Colloquium though, specifically the statistics.



In the conclusion I wrote at the end of my article, which was printed in the booklet presented to each attendee at the Colloquium, I stated:

“Natural pearls still exist in the Arabian Gulf. The oyster beds remain, despite pollution worries, but the people (divers, experienced dhow captains, etc..) are the missing equation. Some people still continue the tradition on a small scale, supplying both the local market and international markets, particularly India and in turn some European countries. However, cultured pearls and alternative industries have made their marks, so it is hardly surprising that the natural pearl trade is very specialized and supplies a limited market around the world”.

Since this was my conclusion it covers the situation as it stands at present in the Arabian Gulf. However, for this article, I thought that perhaps it might be an idea to choose some of the points I mentioned and elaborate on some of them a little.



Oyster bed in the Arabian Gulf

The first point and no doubt the most important is that natural pearls do still exist in the waters of the Arabian Gulf. This can be seen from time to time by the few people who visit our laboratory with pearls that have been recovered, in order to obtain a certificate to prove that they are natural pearls for any potential buyer. Whilst the laboratory cannot state whether the pearls definitely came from a particular source, i.e. the Arabian Gulf, experience has taught us that the likelihood is very strong in some cases. Additionally the dealers, who we often know well, usually deal with divers they have known for years and whose word they trust without question. Further evidence is supplied by reports from divers and others in the fishing industry who say that the oyster beds in many parts are still strongly populated by oysters.

So, if there are still oysters and therefore natural pearls as well, as proved by our clients submissions, why don't we see more natural pearls in the market? This is answered in part by the italic text from my conclusion above. The first event that took place to reduce the demand for natural pearls was the appearance of cultured pearls in the mid 1920's. By the early to mid 1930's the number of people deriving an income from the natural pearl industry



Natural pearls from the Arabian Gulf

had reduced drastically as a result. To put this into perspective, approximately 515 vessels carrying 19250 sailors were registered for pearl diving activities in 1926 and this dropped to 264 vessels carrying 9800 sailors by 1936. In 1930, before oil was discovered, the revenue from pearling to Bahrain amounted to 100%, whilst by 1936 pearling contributed only 31% ¹. The latter figure reflects the effect that the discovery of oil had on the industry. This leads us to the second reason; “alternative industries”: Oil and *newer* professions.

Oil further compounded the decline in pearling, since it introduced an alternative career path for the local citizens and as time passed, further downstream industries developed that provided even greater freedom when deciding on a career. As the decades passed this freedom

became even more pronounced and has reached a point today where Bahraini citizens are able to choose from a large assortment of jobs, not all of which are now related to the oil industry. Banking, aluminium production, ship building/repair and textiles are all important income generators for Bahrain now. Thus pearling is hardly top of any citizen’s career choice, especially as diving was not a very ‘easy’ type of job and was often carried in the hottest and most uncomfortable time of the year. Hence pearling as a career has now more or less vanished as a result and the ‘easier’ nine to five type jobs on land in air conditioned environments have become the norm. Nowadays pearling is more of a hobby or pastime than a serious profession and this combined with the points already raised here helps explain the decline in natural pearls seen today. ***But they are still found*** and during 2004 approximately four kilos of natural pearls were fished from the Arabian Gulf ².

I hope that this article has provided some interest and that all the SSEF alumni members continue to benefit from the SSEF’s work in bringing us all together within this new community of friends.

Please feel free to contact me or any member of the Bahrain laboratory staff if you wish to discuss the topic further or if you ever visit Bahrain (nick@commerce.gov.bh)

Footnotes:

¹ All figures courtesy of The Ministry of Information, Kingdom of Bahrain.

² The figure stated resulted from personal communication with a local pearl dealer.

All photos in the article © Nick Sturman, 2005

Emeralds from Australia; my journey to the roots...

By Leon Ascot, August 2005

On my recent trip to Australia to visit my family and friends, I was fortunate enough to meet some very interesting people who were also involved in one way or another with stones. They were either interested in the "alternative" usages of stones or were dealers of minerals and gemstones.

They informed me that on the following weekend there was going to be a mineral/gem show in the outskirts of the city of Lismore, which is located in N.S.W. near the border of Queensland. Lismore is a picturesque town with a population of over 40 000, situated on the banks of the Wilson river and used to be a thriving timber shipping centre in its hay day. The gentle rolling hills create a very beautiful setting for a gem fair.

As I was walking about in this open air fair, it was obvious that the gem dealers were content with their day's turnover. (Was it the turnover or just the typical Aussie smile? That's another story.)

All of a sudden a guy taps me on the shoulder and asks: "Hey mate, whatcha lookin' for?" Trying my best to disguise my "lost Aussie accent" I said: "Well, I'm after some large rough Sapphire with good colour", He then pulled out of his pocket an enormous Emerald crystal which was about 10X4cm (for Aussie standards that's big). The colour and clarity was more than one could wish for, it wouldn't match the top Columbian stones, of course, but who cares, it was a beautiful stone indeed. The colour of the Emerald was about that of a nice Brazilian example BUT with COLOUR ZONING!!!! The guy proceeded to tell me how he finds the "stuff", he gets down on all fours and "smells the ground" (wait for it) for the smell of "wet horse"! Yes, you read right, WET HORSE!

At first I thought that this guy was "taking me for a ride" when out of the blue, another chap came into the scene just to reassure me that this is actually the method used to find this type of stone. They weren't the only people finding this material by smelling the land I was told. Well, after this very interesting "close encounter" I decided to move on as it was far above my budget. To my pleasant surprise, I walked up to a stall that had amongst other beautiful minerals the same colour zoned emerald as the other guy had. After a little talk with these ever so friendly people, Mrs Renate Moloney informed me that they too find it by smelling the ground for the illusive wet horse. They had smaller crystals that were more so within my price range. Renate was not interested in discussing the price as she wasn't going to budge an inch, but she and her partner were kind enough to give me all the information I needed concerning this stone. I walked away with a smile on my face being the proud owner of this very unusual Emerald.

This Emerald was found in the Sapphire region between Inverell and North of Glen Innes in a place called Torrington, N.S.W.

There was an article written by **K. Schmetzer**, and **H.-J. Bernhardt**, in The Australian Gemmologist Volume 18, Nr 10 May 1994

and by **Grahame Brown** for the Gemmological Association of Australia 2005

www.gem.org.au/emerald.htm



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The Jewellery and Fashion Fair in Hong Kong, June 2005.

by Peter Groenenboom, August 2005

From the 18th to the 21st of June the Jewellery and Fashion Fair was held in the Convention Centre in Hong Kong. The Convention Centre is a beautiful building at the harbour site with magnificent views of the harbour and Kowloon. There are three major Jewellery Fairs held every year in Hong Kong. From these the 'summer fair' is the smallest and the September Fair the largest (seven halls!). The summer fair consist of two halls with three corridors and some large rooms for jewellery and gemstones and two halls and a corridor for fashion (costume) jewellery.



To be honest: as a gemmologist I am hardly interested in costume jewellery. It surprised me how much 'items' are made for adornment. Some pieces I regard as junk. But it is cheap and people wear it, so what can I say? A lot of glass and cubic zirconia is used for the glitters and I wonder sometimes what kind of light-weight materials are used to imitate yellow and white gold and silver. (Perhaps there is someone who can shed some light on that topic?)

At the Jewellery Fair many leading companies were not present. Therefore rare or high quality gemstones, were hard to find. Nevertheless I found some real beautiful, high quality chrysoberyl cat's eyes for a reasonable price (from 3 to 6 ct for about US\$ 800 to 1500 per ct). Of course there were plenty of blue sapphires in all grades, but very few with untreated colours. Of all the other coloured gemstones there was also enough available in all price categories, but very few exceptional pieces. It just reminds me that I have not seen many peridots.

Hong Kong is by far *the* centre for **cultured pearls**. My aim was to buy high quality freshwater cultured pearls and Tahiti's cultured pearls with exceptional colours. And to see if freshwater cultured pearls with a nucleus are available now.

In three days it became clear that greyish and ordinary black cultured pearls were plenty available. But pearls with a high lustre were difficult to find and pearls with nice overtone colours were not available! All dealers I asked told me that the best colour and quality is hard to get. Even a big company such as Tasaki Shinju could only show a few good cultured pearls, which were rather expensive. One dealer I did not expect to see in Hong Kong but who I know for some years advised me to have a look at a the stock of a small dealer. And indeed he had the colour and quality I was looking for and even for a reasonable price.

Before or during the three Hong Kong Fairs there are always cultured pearl auctions from Robert Wan (Tahiti) and sometimes from Paspaley (Australia). At the auction of R. Wan the dealers told me there were very few lots of high quality and that they were asking a high bid. The prices for bronze, chocolate or brownish golden 'treated' cultured pearls have come down. There are two stories about the treatment: some say, they are treated with chemicals (i.e. bleached), others suppose that they are heat-treated at a temperature above 100 °C. Heating seems to me unlikely, as the nacre would probably crack. However, if the temperature of heating is kept below 80°C, such cracking might be avoided. Although these cultured pearls are treated, they can look very nice and there is a demand for them.

There are of course plenty of freshwater cultured pearls available, in white (good quality) the sizes are now up to 14 mm, price about US\$ 300.-/pearl. I did not find any with a nucleus but was told that they would be for sale in autumn or next year. The sizes for coloured freshwater cultured pearls were up to 13 mm, for what I have seen. The prices for all categories were the same as in September 2004.

There are of course always things you missed at a Fair, but I think this report gives a good impression. For more information, please don't hesitate to ask me at peter@edelsteen.nl !

Jewellery with pink opal resembling conch pearls

Michael S. Krzemnicki, August 2005



Flame structure in
Conch pearls.
© H.A. Hänni. SSEF

Recently SSEF Swiss Gemmological Institute got a pair of ear-pendants and a necklace for testing. They consisted of pink drop shaped and round beads. Especially the ear-pendants with a diamond setting resembled visually the famous and very prestigious Conch pearls, which are produced by a marine gastropod. These Conch pearls are rare and do show a porcellaneous lustre and a very characteristic flame-structure. When examining our specimens with the microscope, no flame structure was seen, but a swirly whitish/pink structure. By further testing with XRF and hydrostatic balance, the material was easily recognized as pink opal (SG 2.24). Under ultraviolet (especially SW), the specimens displayed a swirly yellowish to white fluorescence, probably related to the included palygorskite, which is reported as a common inclusion in pink opal from the Acari mining area near Arequipa in Peru. Similar material was already described also by W.M. Mayerson and D. Kondo in *Gems & Gemology* 2004 (Fall issue), vol. XL, pages 246-247.



Pink opal beads. © H.A. Hänni, SSEF

News from the library:

New book about Jade by Cecilia Lam Shiu Ling

by Peter Groenenboom, August 2005

Mrs. Cecilia Lam Shiu Ling is a well-known gemmologist and member of the Gemmological Association Of Hong Kong. She has twenty years of experience in collecting and appraising Chinese antiques. In June 2005 she published her first book in English after ten in Chinese! This book is about jade and in my opinion one of the best English books on this subject. Most books about jade are concentrating on jade objects and their cultural background. To get information about the trade, grading, treatments and imitations is difficult. '**Jade**' from Mrs. Lam is such a book. She starts with explaining what the word jade means for the Chinese and for the rest of the world. What the Chinese call 'jade' is a range of, if I may say, 'jade-like materials'. While for the rest of the world jade describes two different minerals, nephrite and jadeite! In Asia shops you will find artefacts from which the dealer claims that it is made of jade. Often proving it with a Chinese certificate written in English. In most cases, it

is serpentine, saussurite or some other mineral (or combination of minerals). In fact the Chinese certificate is right and not right, a matter of opinion!

The book further describes grading and trading of jade as well as the valuation of jade. The chapters about treatment, identification of jade and jade-like materials are especially important for collectors, appraisers and gemmologists. The major benefit of this book is that it contains a large number of photos of objects, often with their value indicated. In these pictures you will see the most exclusive pieces of jade but also pieces of glass made to imitate jade. They will make you more aware of jade beauty and pitfalls!

Of course, nothing is perfect. This book is made for the consumer and is written in a very simple and consistent language. But in my opinion, the chapter about treatments and imitations of jade would need a more detailed description. Microphotographs of inclusions and more detailed description of jade characteristics would have helped when detecting jade treatments and jade-like materials. But that's just the gemmologist in me speaking!

The price for this book in Europe will be about 55 Euro, which is a bargain for such a book (size A4, 253 pages). This is an absolutely recommendable book!!

The book title is 'JADE' by Cecilia Lam

Published by : Lead On Publishing Co. ISBN 962-86332-5-2

I am going to order 20 copies, so I can send it to members or they can get it at the store.

Contact me at peter@edelsteen.nl !

Search the Web....

Some useful websites just found on internet:

www.watchprint.com

Here you find an extensive list of books about gemstones, jewellery design, watch making etc. For each offered book there is a short description in English, German or French (easy to navigate)

www.ir-spektroskopie.de

This is a website describing the fundamentals of infrared spectroscopy (in German), with plenty of information about the technique and applications. (Science !)

<http://minerals.gps.caltech.edu/>

This is a very huge database with all kind of mineral spectra and information related to mineral (e.g. what is the cause of colour in minerals).

www.ijvs.com/archive.html

The archive of the Internet Journal of Vibrational Spectroscopy offers you many interesting articles about application of Raman spectroscopy and infrared spectroscopy. It is addressing not primarily to scientists, but rather to students or lab people. Which are interested in the application of such instruments in all kinds of analysis (not directly on gemstones).

For Raman „afficionados“, check the article: <http://www.ijvs.com/volume3/edition4/index.html>

Non-destructive identification of minerals by Raman microscopy,

by Ray Frost, Theo Kloprogge and Jolene Schmidt

<http://www.aigslaboratory.com/Filearticle/55.pdf>

A very interesting article published by Vincent Pardieu, executive director at AIGS laboratory in Bangkok, about the new lead glass treatment for rubies. Many pictures explain this treatment step by step for all interested gemmologists.

SSEF Alumni News:

Important Announcement:

Reduction of SSEF Alumni Membership Fee from 150.- to 50.- Swiss Francs per year!

During the last two months, we got a lot of positive reactions from your side concerning SSEF Alumni Organisation. Although, the idea of SSEF Alumni has found great acceptance, after quite a number of discussions, we reconsidered the annual fee for SSEF Alumni membership.

Starting from September 2005, all applicants to SSEF Alumni will be paying only 50.- Swiss Francs for SSEF Alumni membership for one year !

All SSEF Alumni members, which have already paid the original fee of 150.- Swiss Francs will become automatically SSEF Alumni members for the next three years (until end of 2007).

As a consequence of this reduction, however, the annual SSEF dinner will not be offered for free anymore starting from next year.

We hope, that by reducing the membership fee, we can grow more and faster and attract many gem enthusiasts to participate in our international network.

Check the SSEF Alumni Website:

Have a look on our beautifully designed website www.ssef-alumni.org and keep in touch with us at info@ssef-alumni.org

Thanks to our webmaster Hannes Diedrich www.kulturinventur.de



SSEF Alumni collaborates with the French Gemmological Association (Association française de gemmologie afg)

As a member of SSEF Alumni you will get a 10% reduction on the normal fee (normal fee 46 Euro in Europe) for the annual subscription to their highly reputed quarterly gemmological journal. This journal is packed with articles on gemmological topics (in French, mostly with a short English abstract) and many colourful and excellent photos. Please contact directly Lysiane Borioli gemmes7@wanadoo.fr (tel. +33 – 1 – 42 46 78 46) and ask for the SSEF Alumni subscription.

SSEF Alumni and the SSEF Swiss Gemmological Institute



As every year, SSEF is currently updating its course program for 2006. As member of SSEF Alumni you will exclusively profit with a 10% reduction on all SSEF course fees. By the end of September, you will find all new courses on the internet at www.ssef.ch or contact gemlab@ssef.ch

SSEF Alumni welcomes Bijoutil AG

Bijoutil AG

SSEF Alumni is proud to present you Bijoutil AG as one of its partners. Bijoutil AG is one of the major Swiss based companies, offering all kinds of tools for goldsmiths and gemstone cutters. Your SSEF Alumni welcome kit has been offered by Bijoutil AG. Please check their website: www.bijoutil.ch

SSEF Alumni works with SYSTEM EICKHORST®



SYSTEM EICKHORST®, one of the leading manufacturer and distributor of high quality lighting and optic instruments for gemmologists is becoming part of SSEF Alumni.

As SSEF Alumni member, you will profit exclusively from a 10% reduction on all their light & optic instruments (see www.eickhorst.com). When ordering at SYSTEM EICKHORST®, please indicate your SSEF Alumni membership number.

Promote your business on the SSEF Alumni website (SSEF Alumni Benefit Program)

We offer you a free-of-charge possibility to promote your services on the SSEF Alumni website. By participating, you agree to offer a reduction of at least 10% on all your services and products for other SSEF Alumni members.

Please send your business card together with a list of your services to Leon Ascot (info@ssef-alumni.org, or PO Box 605, CH-8803 Rüschlikon, Switzerland) Switzerland. Our webmaster will upload regularly the promotion information on our website.

What are your benefits as a Member of SSEF Alumni ?

The SSEF Alumni Organisation is exclusively open for former participants of courses at SSEF Swiss Gemmological Institute and FGA Students from all over the world as a platform for the exchange of information and for continuous gemmological formation.

It is the aim of the **SSEF Alumni Organisation** to support you and to further enhance your skills in gemmology and to help you maintain your personal ties with other participants of the courses in future.

What are you offered as a member of the SSEF Alumni Organisation:

- Free reception gift: Tools for grading, including a 10x loupe, tweezer, cloth, brush, pencil, pen, red and green pencils, all in a handy box.
- Periodical electronic newsletter informing on new developments in gemmology and events for SSEF Alumni members
- Meetings, gatherings, and excursions, organised exclusively for SSEF Alumni members
- Invitation to the annual SSEF Alumni Dinner
- You get a 10% reduction on the normal prices for all courses, instruments and books at SSEF Swiss Gemmological Institute (reduction is **not** valid for SSEF certificates !)
- Exclusively for SSEF Alumni members: You profit from a 10% reduction on all light & optic instruments at SYSTEM EICKHORST®
- Internet-Portal www.ssef-alumni.org (You will have the possibility to advertise your company/service on this website)
- Internet forum for exchanging informations between other SSEF Alumni members
- You may participate in the interactive formation programme *Facets®*, exclusively designed for our SSEF Alumni members (under construction)
- Successful participants of the *Facets®* programme will be fully credited once a year in the internet and in the newsletter.
- You may participate in the *SSEF Alumni Benefit®* programme: SSEF Alumni member are promoting their products and services free-of-charge on the SSEF Alumni webpage. By participating, you agree to offer your products and services for a reduced charge (at least 10% reduction) exclusively for other SSEF Alumni members.

The possibilities which are exclusively offered to SSEF Alumni members will be extended continuously. We appreciate also your propositions.

To be part of the SSEF Alumni Organisation (annual membership fee is **50.- Swiss Francs**), please send the attached SSEF Alumni Membership Application Form to:

Leon Ascot, FGA
President of SSEF Alumni
PO Box 605
CH-8803 Rüschlikon
Switzerland

info@ssef-alumni.org

Membership Application for the SSEF Alumni

Name _____

First Name _____

Street _____

ZIP _____

City _____

Province _____

Country _____

Email _____

When did you follow a course at SSEF or FGA _____

Please read carefully:

The annual SSEF Alumni Membership Fee is 50.- Swiss Francs. The first membership fee is for 2005. The membership fee for 2006 will be due by 1. April 2006, unless you unsubscribe to SSEF Alumni Organisation prior to end of February 2006 (info@ssef-alumni.org).

After having paid the membership fee, you will get your **SSEF Alumni Membership Card**.

All data about SSEF Alumni members is strictly used only for the SSEF Alumni Organisation and not made public to anybody else, who is not belonging to SSEF Alumni.

As member of the SSEF Alumni Organisation, I declare to follow international standards and rules of fair trade practice. Any abuse of above mentioned declaration will lead to exclusion from SSEF Alumni Organisation.

Date _____ Signature _____

Please send this application form to:

Leon Ascot, FGA
President of SSEF Alumni
PO Box 605
CH-8803 Rüschlikon
Switzerland



With the periodical electronic SSEF Alumni newsletter, we want to inform you on new developments in gemmology and exclusive events for SSEF Alumni members. You are invited to contribute to the newsletter with letters and short articles of interest for other SSEF Alumni members. All contributions should be sent to Dr. Michael S. Krzemnicki gemlab@ssef.ch or to Leon Ascot, President of SSEF Alumni (info@ssef-alumni.org) and will be published after editing if appropriate for this newsletter.

Impressum:

Publishers:
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