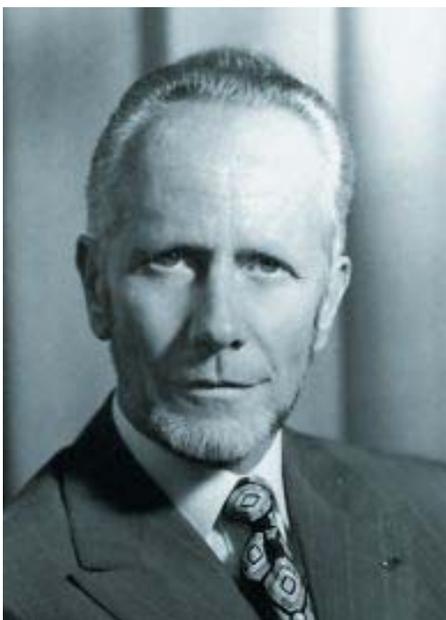


## Legacy of Dr. Eduard J. Gübelin



Eduard J. Gubelin Dr. Dr. h.c, CG, FGA

Dr. Eduard J. Gubelin was born into a watch making family on 16 March 1913, as the first son of Eduard Gubelin Sr. and Maria née Schriber. Eduard Gubelin studied earth sciences at the universities of Zurich and Vienna, earning a Ph.D. in mineralogy in 1938. It was during the 1936-37 winter term in Vienna, while studying under Prof. Hermann Michel, that he first learned to distinguish inclusions in gems and appreciate their significance to the identification of gemstones. After obtaining his doctorate, Dr. Gubelin earned, as the only second European, a Certified Gemmologist diploma in 1939 at the GIA in Los Angeles. After his studies, he returned to his father's business in Lucerne. In the years to come, together with his brother Walter, they led the Gubelin firm with outstanding distinction, continuing the standards of excellence which had been set by their father.

Even the outbreak of the Second World War and his service in the Swiss army could not hinder his scientific activities concentrating more and more on the field of inclusions in gemstones. Quite the opposite, the research which then began became his actual playing field within his gemmological science work. Dr. Gubelin combined his knowledge of mineralogy and the jewellery business with his passion and admiration for gemstones to become one of the pioneers of modern gemmology and father of origin determination – the analysis for which the Gubelin Gem Lab today is most renowned. He helped to advance the science of gemmology countless times, with his investigation and classification of a wide spectrum of gem materials, excursions to mining locations and his world-renowned, innovative work on the fascinating realm of gemstone inclusions.

Dr. Eduard J. Gubelin also regarded the invention and development of gemmological instruments as a part of his research activities and made several important contributions for the practical development of stone investigation and examination. In 1945 he designed a simple, mobile light source to examine gemstones. The first desk-model gemmological spectroscope followed in 1952. Further valuable instruments developed by Eduard Gubelin were to follow over the years, such as the coloriscope, the gemmolux, the fluoroscope and the magnoscope, to mention only a few.



In the year 1946 Eduard Gubelin was appointed F.G.A. of the Gemmological Association of Great Britain and in 1948 was honoured the title First Research Member GIA by the Gemmological Institute of America. In 1952 he became member of the German "Gemmologischen Gesellschaft" and in the same year was appointed an expert for the German Institute of Gemmological Research. Also in 1952 he was one of the founders of the International Gemmological Conference (I.G.C.). Then in 1956, in honour of his publication "A Contribution to the Genealogy of Inclusions" the Gemmological Association of Great Britain presented him the Research Diploma – an honourable award. In 1942, Eduard Gubelin became a founding member of the Swiss Gemmological Association, with the function of a scientific advisor.

In appreciation of his research work and the publishing of his great knowledge Dr. Gubelin was appointed honorary member of gemmological societies of Australia, Germany, Japan, Sweden and Switzerland. He was also awarded the title of Honorary Professor of the University of Stellenbosh (South Africa) and in 1988 received his Doctor honoris causa from the International Foundation of Universities.

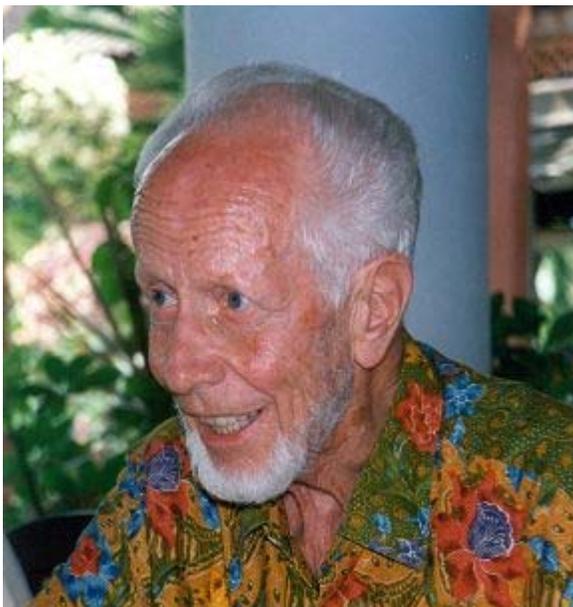
His continued prolific publications of a lifelong vocation resulted in a vast number of articles in gemmological and science journals, trade publications, newspaper articles, as well as a number of books devoted to all the various aspects of gemmology. Over the decades, as a result of Dr. Gubelin's contribution to the world of gemmology in means of an author and film-maker a remarkable list of publications has arisen, such as the film "Mogok, the Valley of Rubies" in 1963, the book "Internal World of Gemstones" published in 1974, or "The Color Treasury of Gemstones" issued one year later, and, among his most famous books, "Photoatlas of Inclusions of Gemstones", also published in 1975, in collaboration with John Koivula. The "World Map of Gem Deposits" from 1988 also gained worldwide recognition. More recently, in 2000, together with Franz-Xaver Erni, he released the comprehensive, beautifully illustrated "Gemstones: Symbols of Beauty and Power", and in the year 2006, his last publication was completed, an important book on inclusions in gemstones, together with John Koivula.

His films and books paint a wonderful picture of his travels and the world of stones and precious stones, and also of the trials and tribulations involved in their search. To ensure the continuation of his lifelong endeavour to understand gemstones, in 2003 Dr. Eduard Gubelin co-founded the "Association for Research and Identification of Precious Stones", an independent non-profit organisation, with the principle purpose to initiate, promote and support research projects in the area of gemmology. Dr. Gubelin served as a board member in the Association.

Until his passing in March 2005 Dr. Gubelin remained an active figure in the gemmological community. He was a regular presenter at meetings of the Swiss Gemmological Society, sharing gems from his incomparable collection and documentations of his latest inclusion discoveries. Although over his last years he scaled down his many travels, he still appeared at symposiums and conferences all over the world to share his immense knowledge. Fluent in five languages he maintained an active correspondence with colleagues around the world from his home in Lucerne.

While he was known first and foremost as a gemmologist, his life was so much more. Dr. Gubelin was an old-school gentleman, an author, artist, film-maker, traveler and poet. He was an outstanding and gifted writer and an admirer of arts and culture who portrayed his love for life and nature in his writings.

Dr. Eduard Gubelin passed away in March 2005 in Lucerne, Switzerland, only one day short of his 92nd birthday. Dr. Gubelin devoted his life and career to unveiling the mystique of gemstones. He was one of the leading gemmologists, recognized the world over as the authority on inclusions in gemstones. His great knowledge of mineralogy and the jewellery business combined with his passion and admiration for gemstones made him become one of the founders of modern gemmology and the very father of origin determination.



**"To anyone who loves gemstones and rejoices in their radiant, coloured and dazzling exterior beauty, comes involuntarily the desire to be able to peep into their interior. (...) Only the message from their interior – their inclusions, the documents of their evolution in the womb of the earth – renders them vital, natural and precious. The existence of these inclusions is a part of the value and the charm with which gemstones are favoured. (...) These have, moreover, the inestimable advantage that they can 'speak' to anyone who will hear and understand the language of the gemstone's interior décor. They tell place and time of the stone's origin, they grant glimpses into the distant past and creative forces of our planet. (...) They are, beyond that, a prosaically valuable tool for jewelers and gemmologists who with their help can detect frauds and determine the provenance from a certain country and sometimes even from a**

certain gem mine. (...) The inclusions – the inner life – of gemstones are their speech: it is lyrical, dramatic, rational or aesthetic according to whether one understands how to listen to it and what one wishes to hear.”

home