

International School of Gemology

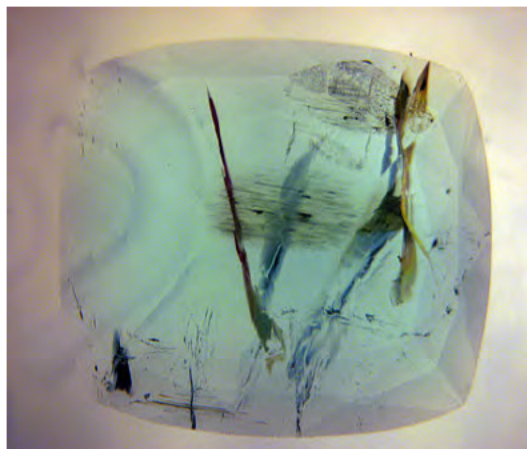


17 February 2009

The Diffusion of Tourmaline Part II!

The second in our 2 part investigation series!

Before we begin our final part in the series I wanted to take a few minutes to offer a few important points.



#1. Based on our experience over the past few months we do not view this diffused tourmaline issue as wide spread in the market that some fear. I walked the AGTA show several times and did not see any tourmalines there that showed what I have come to learn as strong indicators of diffusion treatment. It is our experience that the Thai cookers are turning out these stones and selling them to certain shopping channels, online internet retailers, and eBay sellers. This is mainly because the major gemstone dealers will have the experience to spot this treatment and know that something is wrong, while the others will most likely not be able to spot anything amiss. As a result I did walk the AGTA show in Tucson and did not see any of the remarkable features that we know to use to spot this treatment in any of the AGTA booths. However GJX was quite different and I purchased several stones from Thai dealers there to prove the point. The image above left is

a prime example.

#2. At the ISG at Tucson 2009 we had a wonderful outpouring of donations and contributions of gemstone specimens from many dealers. We will offer a special feature of this newsletter early next week to showcase those

contributions to the ISG Student Reference Library.

#3. We are working on the video of the ISG at Tucson 2009 for all who could not attend. This is an annual event for everyone who could not go and I wanted you all to know that we are working on this. The week after Tucson is always a tough time due to being so far behind but we are getting there.

#4. For all who are asking, we do believe we have a method to identify diffusion treated Mongolian andesine from any natural material. We are still testing this but after meeting with folks from Tibet at Tucson and obtaining rough and faceted stones, we have found some very interesting test results that are very promising. When this is confirmed we will be able to verify if andesine you have purchased is diffused or not. More coming next week.

#5. **Our Apologies:** Last week we ran an edition that quoted Ted Themelis quite a bit, and without editing. We believed that it was important to provide unedited quotes as sent to us. Unfortunately we heard from a few folks who were a bit shocked at a few of the words used. I apologize to anyone who was offended by this issue, and assure you that we will not repeat the situation.

We hope that Part II of our Investigation of Diffused Tourmaline will be of benefit to everyone. It is 14 pages and can be printed but not edited or reproduced without permission. I need to tell everyone that the entire file is:

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With that said, here is [Part II of the ISG Investigation of Diffusion of Tourmaline](#).

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President, International School of Gemology

Send us your thoughts, suggestions, and responses to:

[Contact the ISG](#)

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