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## WGS: China Dealer Alert for Las Vegas Shows

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## China Dealer Alert for Las Vegas Shows

For anyone traveling to the Las Vegas gem shows, and everyone else for that matter, you will want to read this. Over the past few weeks we have made a concerted effort to obtain a wide variety of gemstones from Thai and Chinese dealers in an effort to get a better grasp of the problem of undisclosed treatments being sold from these locations. As previously found, the overwhelming majority of the undisclosed treated stones are coming from China, or from dealers located in Thailand but the gemstones are shipping from that Chinese post office box as seen below. The variety of stones we are finding, with the same properties as previously confirmed with treated stones from this area, has caused us to issue this **China Dealer Alert for the Las Vegas Shows**.



A classic example is seen below. The two gemstones you see below offer the same red and yellow material on the surface that we found in the color infused tourmaline starting in 2009. The rough gems below are both from Chinese dealers, but were obtained 3 years apart.




The real issue is that the gemstone crystal from 2009 on the left is a tourmaline, and the one of the right that we just obtained is an amethyst.



In reviewing other images of color infused Chinese tourmaline from our previous study, and comparing to some of the new crystals from Chinese dealers, we found that the same red and yellow material to be present. The image below right appears to be wet, but we have had this stone on the desk for about 3 weeks. It is not wet, it has some sort of surface material that is either oily or perhaps the water glass we previously found.



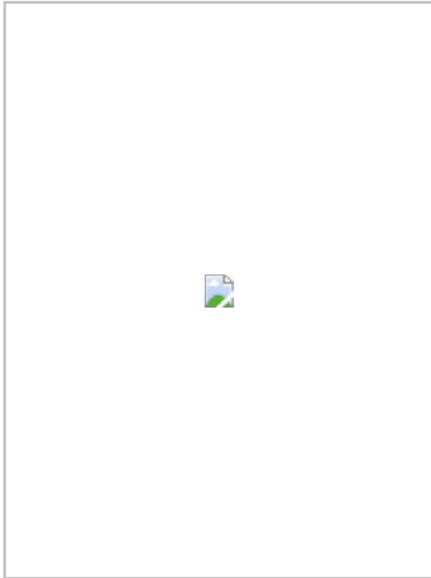
 We know from our previous investigations of color infused tourmaline that the coloring element runs fast and deep into the stone through any opening. The larger the opening, the more color runs into the stone. As you can see at left, the green color infusion material in this treated tourmaline ran down the damaged growth tube causing a stream of color into the stone.

Comparing this specimen and the "red dagger" Tibet andesine specimen below left, we know that the color infusion runs quickly into any major opening in a stone such as a fracture or growth tube of any type.

**The main issue for this alert is that what the Chinese cookers learned how to do with feldspar and tourmaline, they are apparently now doing with a variety of gemstones.**

Below Clockwise: Tibet Andesine, Amethyst, Sapphire, Aquamarine






 At left is this same red and yellow material that we believe to be some type of flux used in the color infusion process, but this time in tanzanite.

Image at left is a tanzanite crystal recently obtained, and above faceted tanzanite gemstone from our 2009 study of color infusion.

We continue to find the hardened water glass on the surface of a variety of gemstones from Chinese dealers. Below is a green grossular garnet sold as tsavorite. The images speak for themselves on this stone.



And if you were wondering why there seems to suddenly be such an huge influx of intense neon blue apatite, see the images below. We have obtained several rough specimens from Chinese sources that has hardened water glass and the embedded threads from some type of treatment. This is the same type of feature we found on the confirmed color infused Tibet andesine. These are not wet, this is a hardened glassy glaze material that was previously confirmed as hardened water glass.



At this time we can offer no confidence in any colored gemstone coming from Chinese dealers in general, and Hong Kong dealers in specific. Particularly in the following stones: Amethyst, Apatite, Aquamarine, Garnet (all types) Sapphire, Ruby, Tanzanite, Peridot, Tourmaline (all types). But extreme caution should be used when shopping with any dealer

from this region for any gemstone variety as over 85% of the undisclosed treated gemstones obtained by this office over the past 2 months study were from Chinese dealers in China, or Chinese dealers posing as Thai dealers

**IMPORTANT:** We want to note that this situation appears to be very much centered around the Chinese gemstone industry. We found no remarkable surge in the type of treatments nor volume of treatments from other sources including but not limited to: Nigeria, Brazil, Tanzania, Madagascar, Sri Lanka, and most other major gemstone producing areas. The problem appears to be centered around the Chinese gem industry.

We urge everyone to seek out a World Gem Society Registered Gem Dealer when shopping for gemstones at any time. It is your guarantee of quality and proper disclosure.

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