

## Corundum — rubies and sapphires

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### Laporan (Report)

Mr. Lau gave the above talk on Friday 16 February 2001 at 6.00 pm at the Geology Department, University of Malaya.

This is another talk in the series of talks on gemology by the Working Group on Economic Geology. This is also the second talk given by Mr. Lau and as usual there was a good crowd of about 40.

In his presentation, Mr. Lau started off with the legends of rubies and sapphire before touching on their optical, chemical and physical properties for identification. Next he dealt with the types of synthetic rubies and sapphires; imitation and assembled corundum; heat treatment and enhancement; sources of rubies and sapphire in the world; quality factors; and finally the world market and pricing of rubies and sapphires.

A good and lively discussion followed before the participants adjourned to view the numerous samples of natural rubies and sapphires, synthetic corundum, ruby on host rock, dyed ruby, imitations and some gemological instruments which Mr. Lau had set up for display.

G.H. Teh

