

PERTEMUAN PERSATUAN (Meeting of the Society)

Ceramah Teknik (Technical Talk)

PHENOMENAL GEMS

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Geology Department

University of Malaya

(in collaboration with the Dept of Geology, University of Malaya)

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Report

Marilyna Lau was in Malaysia for a short vacation when we invited her to give a talk on phenomenal gemstones. The talk was well attended by about 60 participants. A number of questions were raised on the various gemstones phenomenon and its properties. The talk was very informative on the gemstones and jewelry industry especially when it relates to New York City which is the fashion capital of the world where she works.

Marilyna is based in New York City (NYC) where she works as a diamond buyer and jewelry Quality Assurance for F.Blancato, LLC - an Italian manufacturer who sets and cast jewelry for the high end jewelry market in the United States. She obtained her Graduate Gemologist (GG) from the Gemological Institute of America (GIA) in NYC at the age of 18 and went on to do her associate degree in Jewelry Design at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) in NYC. She has worked in NYC for the past 4 years as a diamond grader at IGL, Quality Assurance for jewelry at Tiffany & Co., and sales associates at Golden Pearl Jewelers.

Lau YinLeong

Summary

Phenomena in gemstones are unique characteristics that are actually optical effects in visible light that occur in some species of gems. Phenomenal gems are often fashioned into cabochons or tablets to display the phenomena. The technical talk covers the following :

- 1) Asterism - Star effect as in Rubies and Sapphires
- 2) Chatoyancy - Cat's eye effect as in Alexandrite Chrysoberyl
- 3) Colour change - Distinct difference in gem's body colour under incandescent light and daylight as in Rubies and Sapphires
- 4) Play of colour - Flashes of spectral colours as in Opals
- 5) Orient - Iridescence found on the surface of pearls
- 6) Labradorescence - Broad colour flash across the surface of Labradorite
- 7) Adularescence - Billowy light as in Moonstone
- 8) Aventurescence - Coloured spangling or glittering effect as in Aventurine Quartz.

PHENOMENAL GEMS - MARILYNA LAU



Marilyna presenting her talk on phenomenal gems.



Part of the participants in the lecture hall.



Elaborating a point on asterism on a star ruby.



Prof Dr Lee, President of GSM presenting a souvenir to Marilyn Lau.



Prof Dr Lee chatting with Prof Emeritus H.D. Tjia and his wife during tea break. Prof Tjia was in Universiti Malaya, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and Lestari and consulting for Petronas.