



American Gemological Laboratories™

Defining Quality for Over 30 Years

580 Fifth Avenue, Suite 706 • New York, NY 10036 • 212.704.0727 • agl@aglgemlab.com •

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

American Gemological Laboratories To Re-Open

28 March 2009: American Gemological Laboratories (AGL) is re-opening. The 32 year old industry leading gem identification laboratory, founded in 1977, will re-open its doors after being closed by its owner, Collectors Universe, as it chose to exit the gem and jewelry business. AGL will re-open under the new ownership/leadership of Christopher P. Smith, former Vice President and Chief Gemologist for AGL these past 2 years, who has reached an agreement in principle to purchase the AGL including its name and various assets from Collectors Universe.

Smith will lead the AGL, maintaining the tradition of high-level gemstone reporting and documentation that its clients have come to expect. "I have been directly involved with the operation of AGL and having helped manage the business since December 2006; acquiring the lab seemed like a natural progression." Smith indicated.



The new AGL will retain most of the original team including Smith, Elizabeth Quinn Darenius, Maria Frances, Sun Joo Chung and Bilal Mahmood, providing a seamless transition and continuation of the high-level services that AGL is known for.

Christopher P. Smith is an internationally renowned gemologist. He began his career at the Gemological Institute of America's Gem Trade Lab in California and was more recently their Director of Colored Stone Services the GIA's New York laboratory. Smith was also a past Director of the Gübelin Gem Lab, in Luzern, Switzerland where he worked for nearly twelve years.

Smith most recently received the prestigious Antonio C. Bonanno award for Excellence in Gemology by the Accredited Gemologists Association and has been widely published internationally on a broad range of gem-related topics, including gemstone treatments, their detection and proper disclosure, gemstone origins, diamonds, colored diamonds, their characterization and treatment detection and new gem materials, as well as others. He has been a past recipient of the Edward J. Gübelin award for most valuable article in *Gems & Gemology*, as well as the Richard T. Liddicoat award from the American Gem Society. Smith has been instrumental in improving the methodology of gemological testing and developing innovative disclosure terminology. He was also a founding member of the Laboratory Manual Harmonization Committee (LMHC), a collaborative effort of major gem labs around the world to come together and harmonize reporting nomenclature.

American Gemological Laboratories (AGL) is the United States' most widely known and respected colored stone gem identification and quality grading laboratory. It was founded in 1977 and became the first gemological laboratory in the US to provide quality grading as well as country-of-origin determinations for colored stones. AGL has become an iconic brand for uncompromised standards and excellence in gemstone reporting and is regularly featured by the auction houses of Christie's and Sotheby's for important colored stones they are offering for sale.

AGL will operate at the same location and all contact numbers remain the same: 580 Fifth Avenue, Suite 706, New York, NY 10036. Tel. 212-704-0727 and Fax 212-764-7614.

Contact:

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