



Gem-A
INSTRUMENTS

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Just in time for CHRISTMAS!

Gem-A Gemmological Instruments manager, Samantha Lloyd FGA EG, explains why Gübelin and Koivula's Photoatlases should be on your Christmas list.

As Gemmologists, we may have slightly less conventional things on our Christmas lists: fewer socks and more fancy loupes and unparalleled reference books. Many of you for example will have all three *Photoatlases* on your wish list (Why wouldn't you? They are must-have books in our field), but what if Santa isn't feeling so generous... and makes you choose just one? This guide will take the guesswork out of choosing which to have first, meaning you don't have to make a blind decision.

Photoatlas of Inclusions in Gemstones Volume 1 was the first written by Gübelin and Koivula, and inspired a much wider use of photomicrography when it was released in the 1980s. Everything in it is still relevant, but bear in mind, anything discovered or created after 1986 is not included. It has been organised, with a handy contents page at the front, by inclusion type rather than by host material, which is great for learning about the inclusions themselves, how they compare to each other in different stones and also for understanding geology a little more. For the photomicrography beginner, this book is a lifeline and reveals how to set up your microscope and accessories to achieve the best out of each inclusion photograph you take.

Volume 2 features inclusions organised by host material, so that you can look up characteristic and even diagnostic inclusions by gemstone. It doesn't feature many, if any, of the commercial four (ruby, sapphire, emerald and diamond), but it is almost double the size of *Volume 1*. With a whopping 830 pages full of other commercially important stones, it begins with a heart shaped inclusion in a morganite that the authors have lovingly dedicated to their wives.

Volume 3 is the last of the trilogy, published a short time after Eduard Gübelin sadly passed away in 2005. This smaller, but stunning book contains mostly diamond, ruby, sapphire and emerald inclusions. The pictures are much crisper, the techniques had improved even more (if that's possible) and of course, for most of us, 90% of what we

test on a day-to-day basis is these 'big four'. This volume is commercially practical, containing heaps of information about treatments, synthetics and natural gems, grouped by geographic location.

All three are a must-have; they go hand in hand. If you have to make the tough decision of which to have first, you'll now know which one will be most useful to you first!

Volume 1 is priced at £230, *Volume 2* at £240 and *Volume 3* at £250. ■

