



PAPER TRAIL FOR RETINOSUARUS GRS-REF-29689

PMF acquired materials from companies not associated with the Myanmar military. PMF is transparent in its operations and is willing to provide additional proof of purchase to bona fide researchers (appendices). For security reasons, precise details of the purchase need to remain private, however, we provide information related to the acquisitions, including export and import documentation link on our website using a password. This password can be provided by contacting adolfo@peretti.ch.

Provenance declaration: The amber specimen GRS-Ref-29689 was discovered by Nyi Nyi Aung from a miner's production in early 2017 in the Khamti mining area. It was mined before that date during the 2016 mining season. The Khamti amber mining area is not a conflict zone (Documentation: Provenance declaration document, dated 13.5.2021), as it is approximately 100 km away from the Hukwaung valley.

It was offered by the sample owner to GRS Gemresearch Swisslab while in consignment by Mr. Nyi Nyi Aung, who physically was taking care the amber piece for GRS for later purchase, pending exportation (see appendix 1).

Export Burma: A collection of amber research material (including GRS-Ref-29689) was assembled in Yangon in January 2019 during a private NGO jewellery exhibition (Yangon Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association) and exported by NF (see Appendix 11,12). NF is a private company with no relation to the Burmese military. It has an official private export license. During the exhibition, a 2-step procedure was followed to gain export permission and the relevant export stamp (see appendix 24).

NF is a private exporter, independent of the military, and is not listed on the list of persons to be banned (United Nations Human Rights Council 42 session, 2019). The Yangon Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association is a private company and is not listed in the companies that must be banned according the UNHRC.

1.) The sample GRS-29689 was then exported with the help of a private courier MH, a private person with German nationality and a personal contact of Dr. A. Peretti. MH was hired as an agent to make the physical export for us. He obtained an export permission stamped on the reverse side of the export permitted bill that says (see appendix 12);

“Cut and Rough gemstones mentioned in this cash memo are treated as export permit to take along with Mr. MH through the Airport/seaport”,

signed-off by the export officer Mr. Win Naing. Front page of bill/export stamp makes reference that he is acting as an agent for GRS Gemresearch Swisslab AG, Baumschulweg 13, 6045 Meggen, Switzerland

2.) Mr. MH was allowed to hand-carry the parcel through the Burmese customs at Yangon Airport (confirmation letter by MH, see appendix 20). The bill/export permit is carried and custom passage permit.

3.) The purchase bank to bank transfer from Switzerland to the exhibitor in Burma is documented on the export permit with reference to the export permit of MGE (government office, Myanmar).

4.) Payment for the sample was then made by bank transfer to the seller and exporter in Burma to their account in Burma (Myanmar) directly by GRS Gemresearch Swisslab AG to NF, the exporter holding the relevant export license (payment date 16.1.2019).



5.) It was hand-carried to USA and was shipped from GRS Lab USA (New York) to UTCT laboratory (University of Texas, Austin) by FedEx (delivery confirmation and tracking number 7749-8068-2374) to Dr. Jessica Maisano. The receipt of parcel was signed on arrival by J. Lake on 17.4.2019s (see appendix 3).

6.) The sample is individually registered with photo identification and weight and signed-off and measured by Dr. Matthew Colbert on 23.4.2019 at UTCT, Austin Texas High-Resolution X-ray facility (see appendix 4, metadata protocol with date of measurement).

7.) The sample was hand-carried to GRS (Thailand) Co. LTD for study during a seminar organized by GRS with an international team in December 2019 (<https://www.pmf.org/research/project-one-z69gm>).

8.) GRS-Ref-29689 was returned paying import tax to Switzerland to the collection of GRS and was sold according to a MoU between GRS and PMF (appendix 14) to the permanent collection of PMF (see appendix 1)

THE PMF (WWW.PMF.ORG) LEGAL GUARANTEE FOR HOLO-TYPE CURATION IN SWITZERLAND:

The PMF museum was founded to host important samples and harbor those samples away from commercial transactions. PMF was founded on 28 April 2020 (by-laws, see appendix 10).

1.) Because of the importance of making specimens available to science, including GRS-Ref-29689, PMF museum was founded in accordance with the strict by-laws that makes the specimen available to science forever. The Federal Department of Home Affairs (Switzerland) directly oversees PMF (see appendix 16, right side).

2.) GRS-Ref-29689 is in the official records of the inventory by PMF and was purchased from its official account. The inventory must be reported to the Swiss government as it is purchased through the official account of PMF. The accounts are audited by the Swiss government. The Swiss government does not allow foundations to sell specimens from its inventory as PMF is registered as tax-exempted. An additional clause in the by-laws makes sure the sample goes to an institution equivalent to PMF, in case of default, as an extra level of security (see official translation of our by-laws into English, see appendix 10b, Article 14).

3.) PMF is a non-profit organization with an official permission to engage in humanitarian activities internationally and particularly to help miners (see appendix 10b, article 2, German and English translation). It purchases its samples in the context of humanitarian missions in the regions, including Burma.

4.) PMF is directly supervised by The Federal Department of Home Affairs as published in the commercial registry of Switzerland (see appendix 16, right side) based on an assessment by the Swiss Government, concluding that PMF is of international importance and hence to be supervised directly on a federal level and not a cantonal level (Canton of Lucerne, equivalent to provincial level).

5.) Through an MoU between GRS Swisslab AG and PMF, GRS-Ref-29689 is accessible in a viewing room at the headquarters of GRS in Meggen, Switzerland (see appendix 15).