

# TWENTIETH ANNUAL SINKANKAS SYMPOSIUM Gems & Minerals of Burma (Myanmar)

Saturday, April 25, 2026

GIA World Headquarters  
Carlsbad, CA

**Venue:** GIA World Headquarters | The Robert Mouwad  
Campus  
5345 Armada Drive, Carlsbad, CA 92008

**Sponsors:** Gemological Institute of America  
and the Geo-Literary Society

**Registration:** NOW OPEN through April 24, 2026, noon PDT  
Short URL: <https://bit.ly/sinksymp2026>

**Cost:** **\$185. Earlybird discount until April 10, 2026;**  
\$200. April 4–24.

**Contact:** Issues with registration? [phammers@gia.edu](mailto:phammers@gia.edu)

**Sign-in,** 7:30 – 8:40 AM  
**continental Program starts at 8:50 AM sharp.** Concludes  
**breakfast:** at 4:20 PM. Reception follows at GIA.

**The Rules:** No on-site/same-day registration.  
Valid government picture ID.  
All attendee names must be on the list at the  
gate – no grouping of reservations under one  
name.

**Proceedings:** One copy of the printed volume is included  
with one paid registration. ***Want more copies  
or cannot attend the symposium?***  
Printed volumes of the forthcoming proceedings  
and back issues may be pre-ordered online  
through April 10, 2026, 5PM PDT, at (short URL):

[sinkankas.dpidirect.com](http://sinkankas.dpidirect.com)

Pre-orders will ship from the print house on or  
about May 1, 2026.

**Website:** [sinkankassymposium.net](http://sinkankassymposium.net)



Ruby in marble matrix from Baw Badan,  
Mogok Stone Tract, Burma. Courtesy of  
William Larson, photo by Robert Weldon.

## Speakers\*

Dr. Rachele Turnier

Dr. Aaron Palke

Wim Vertriest

Roland Schluessel

Nathan Renfro

Richard Hughes

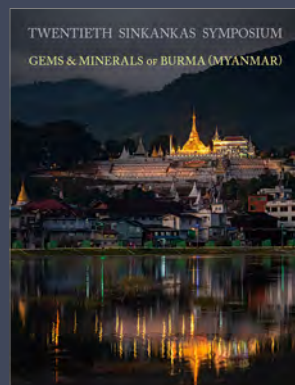
Dr. Laichen Sun

Dr. Tao Hsu

Stuart Robertson

William Larson

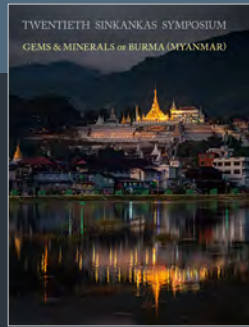
\* *Speakers and program subject to change without notice.*



The one-day event features 10 speakers on topics related to one of the most storied gem-producing regions of the world. Specialists noted in their fields will discuss geology, field gemology, geochemical characterization of sapphires, inclusion features in Burmese gems, modern mining and production, market reports, jade nomenclature, history of jadeite, pearls, and the quest for Burma's finest and rarest gems. This year's event and proceedings are dedicated to Professor George R. Rossman.

## SINKANKAS SYMPOSIUM PUBLICATIONS 2026

Available online  
through April 10, 2026 only from  
DPI Direct, Poway, California  
[sinkankas.dpidirect.com](http://sinkankas.dpidirect.com)



## TWENTIETH SINKANKAS SYMPOSIUM GEMS & MINERALS OF BURMA (MYANMAR)

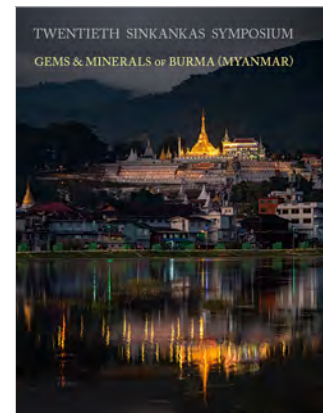
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Orasa Weldon and Robert Weldon

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#### FRONT COVER

Chan Tar Gyi Pagoda gleams in the rapidly darkening night in the town of Mogok, Burma (Myanmar), nestled in the famed "Valley of Rubies." Its reflection is caught in the Mogok Lake at the edge of town. Before the lake existed, this was the site of the famed Burma Ruby Mines Ltd., established after British annexation in 1886, and then closed and flooded in the early 1930s. Photo by Robert Weldon / GIA.



#### BACK COVER

At just over 1,700 carats, this ruby crystal remains one of the largest of its kind in the world. Named "The Sun of Mogok," it was discovered in the early 1990s. It resides in a private collection. Photo by Robert Weldon, courtesy of William Larson.

## TWENTIETH SINKANKAS SYMPOSIUM GEMS & MINERALS OF BURMA (MYANMAR)

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