

Napoleon Caesar Emerald





NAPOLEON CAESAR EMERALD

ONE OF THE LARGEST CARVED EMERALDS IN THE WORLD

225 CARATS

This superb jewel, chronicled in the historic annals of the courts of Europe, weighed more than 1000 carats in the rough. At the express command of Napoleon the stone was carved with a cameo head of Julius Caesar by the famous French lapidary, Burdy, and is acknowledged as the finest example of gem carving ever known.

The Napoleon Caesar Emerald, one of the finest large emeralds ever discovered has long been treasured for its intrinsic beauty. Quite aside from this attribute, it has added glamour by reason of its association with the peerless figures -- Napoleon Bonaparte, Julius Caesar and Jean Auguste Burdy.

When Napoleon was first presented with the stone it was in "the rough" and weighed over 1000 carats. Its great size and exquisite color, apparent even in its unpolished state, made a profound impression on the Emperor. His immediate decision was to preserve the gem for posterity as a tribute to his great idol, Julius Caesar.

Napoleon delegated the exacting task of rendering the emerald into the likeness of Julius Caesar to a brilliant young student at the Beaux Arts in Paris, Jean Auguste Burdy, who had won the Grand Prix de Rome for his exquisite wood carving of the head of Bacchus. Burdy proceeded with genius and skill to carve the profile of Caesar in the emerald with almost photographic precision, and in all the years following, no example of lapidary skill has been found to equal it. Indeed, in the century or more since the completion of the task, no lapidary has been able to produce anything to rank with this immortal gem.

Naturally, in the cutting of the stone there was a great sacrifice of weight, so that the finished cameo weighed 225 carats -- still a small price to pay for so rare and exquisite a gem.



National Museum of Natural History · Smithsonian Institution

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20560 • TEL. 202-

February 8, 1974

Sipe Townsend and Mahrdr
One Indiana Square
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Gentlemen:

With reference to the 225 carat Napoleon Caesar Emerald, I have seen this piece and consider it to be a gem of exceptional merit. We would like very much to see this object added to the Smithsonian's gem collection and its acquisition would be considered to be of major importance. In keeping with our usual policy, the donors name would appear on the label. The gift would be tax deductible.

Sincerely yours,

George S. Switzer
Curator
Department of Mineral Sciences

An Invitation

You are cordially invited
to view

A REMARKABLE DISPLAY

of

EMERALDS

including three items of unusual historic interest

• • •

CAMEO OF JULIUS CAESAR'S HEAD
(formerly owned by Napoleon Bonaparte)

BROOCH WITH THREE MAGNIFICENT
FINE EMERALDS
(worn by Josephine)

CORSAGE ORNAMENT CONTAINING
SEVEN MATCHED GEM EMERALDS
(from a noteworthy American Collection)

• • •

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9 through
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

• • •

MARCUS & COMPANY

671 FIFTH AVENUE at FIFTY-THIRD STREET
NEW YORK CITY



I, EMINA TOUSSOUN BRETSCHE, affirm the following:

That the Toussoun Pink Diamond was a present from the Khedive of Egypt, Mohammed Said, to his son, Prince Toussoun, at the birth of his son. The Khedive is credited with having started the final construction of the Suez Canal, and historical records show that this was possible because of a close personal friendship with the French engineering genius, DeLesseps. The Khedive Said died suddenly before its completion and the Throne passed to his ~~brother~~ ^{Said Ismail} brother, the Khedive Ismail. However, the personal jewels of the Toussoun family remained in their possession.

The Pink Pendant weighs approximately 20 carats and is 2+ carats larger than the renowned pink diamond (the Williamson) presented to Queen Elizabeth II. at her coronation by the Union of South Africa. It has been considered as the ideal shade of pink for a diamond of such size.

The Canari diamond, which is part of the parure, weighs approximately 10 carats and also is considered a most unusual gem stone in color and in size.

The settings are attributed to Faberge, the famous court jeweler to the Russian Imperial Family.

The pink pear-shaped earrings were later reset for the comfort of the wives of the Toussoun Royal Family. The earrings weigh 2.5 carats. (Carats in this document refer only to weight of each stone, excluding all diamonds in the settings).

This 4th Day of October, 1973

WITNESSES:

Emmina B. Bretsch

Emmina Toussoun Bretsch
EMINA TOUSSOUN BRETSCHE
(Nee Princess Emina Toussoun)

BILL OF SALE

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That I, LOUISE B. HOLLEY, of Richmond County, Georgia, in consideration of the sum of Three Hundred Thousand (\$300,000.00) Dollars, to be paid in six (6) yearly payments of Fifty Thousand (\$50,000.00) Dollars per year, commencing on the 15th day of July, 1978, do hereby grant, sell, transfer and deliver unto James M. Ford the following goods and chattels, namely:

1. One diamond pendant containing:
 - a) The Toussoun pink diamond weighing approximately twenty carats.
 - b) One canary diamond weighing approximately ten carats.
2. One pair of pink pear-shaped diamond earrings weighing approximately 2.5 carats.

I hereby covenant with James M. Ford that I am the lawful owner of the above-mentioned pieces of jewelry; that they are free from all encumbrances; that I have good right to sell the same as aforesaid; that I will warrant and defend the same as against any lawful claims and demands of all persons; and that this instrument will not be recorded in any jurisdiction ever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, LOUISE B. HOLLEY, do hereunto set my hand this 16 day of June, 1977.

WITNESS:

J. B. Rhodes

John B. Rhodes

Louise B. Holley
LOUISE B. HOLLEY

PURCHASE OR (SALE)				BALANCE				
WT.	P. C.	COST	M. V.	WT.	P. C.	COST	M. V.	
Belonged to Prince ... #1 - Louson				Booklet BSKXXX of Nashville				P
2. Shown - ALKXX - Common								
MXX - APCSKXXX -				Buy BSKXXX				
#1 - Silver top - gold back Cameo brooch with pendant of a deer drop				AKXXK -				
Cameo oval dia 15.9x13.9x5.3 alt 8-1/2 KXX - CTXXX								
<p>N.g. - triple lemony - very shallow not quite brilliant 2 white glazes on corner - 1 on side - badly nicked - girdle bluish on center - 2 diamonds on bottom - group of stones on top</p>								

CS-0528-01A 2/1/78 1/1 Reaction of Nashville 7/14/78 8 8 1 4 1 2/9/76

PURCHASE OR (SALE)				BALANCE				
WT.	P. C.	COST	M. V.	WT.	P. C.	COST	M. V.	
1- Pink p.s. deer drop in gold back setting in prongs				Booklet Nashville				P
Pink p.s. dia 24.5x18.25x7.1 2045 BEMBI - LCXXX -								
<p>Light salmon with sl. touch brown (sl. foggy) - very thin triple of shape - girdle badly nicked - many little bruises - glazes rubbed surface & near girdle - no imp. in str. of stone group of feathers - edges sl. dark, heavy graining over stone</p>								

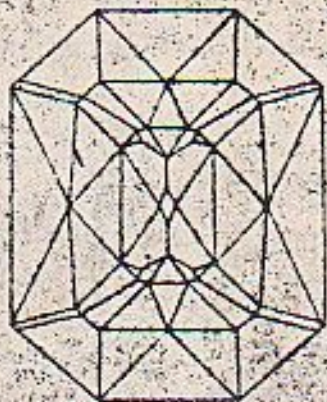
2/1/78 1/1 Reaction of Nashville 7/14/78 8 8 1 4 1 0 9 3

PURCHASE OR (SALE)				BALANCE				
WT.	P. C.	COST	M. V.	WT.	P. C.	COST	M. V.	
1- Flat disc Bowknot Brooch & pendant setg.				Booklet Nashville				P
Brooch: 13 larger disc alt 12.5 real old man's								





A REVIEW OF



by Joseph Gill
6-1-76

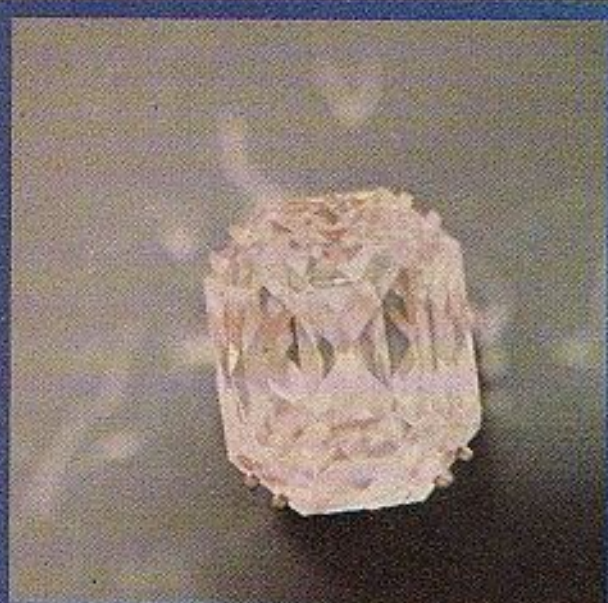
W

f Christmas

o give...



y's pot of lilies-of-the-valley — \$300



Bulgari's 43.35-karat diamond — \$1,450,000



18th-Century pewter wine pitchers — \$1,600, \$1,120, \$1,000

Gemological Institute of America

GEM TRADE LABORATORY

Scientific Identification of Gemstones and Pearls

Diamond Report

NY 23998

In the opinion of the Laboratory, the following are the characteristics of the stone, or stones, described on the attached report as based on measurements and also on observations made through the Gemolite (10X binocular darkfield magnification) and in the Diamondlite, utilizing master comparison stones. Mounted stones graded only to the extent that mounting permits examination.

Shape and Cut cushion octagon, mixed cut
Measurements 23.05x18.95x11.86mm
Weight 43.38 carats (your weight)

Proportions:

Depth Percentage 62.5%
Table Diameter Percentage 58%
Girdle Thickness medium
Culet Size medium
Finish very good
Clarity Grade INTERNALLY FLAWLESS
Color Grade D
Fluorescence none

(See attached photos and diagrams)

Comments:

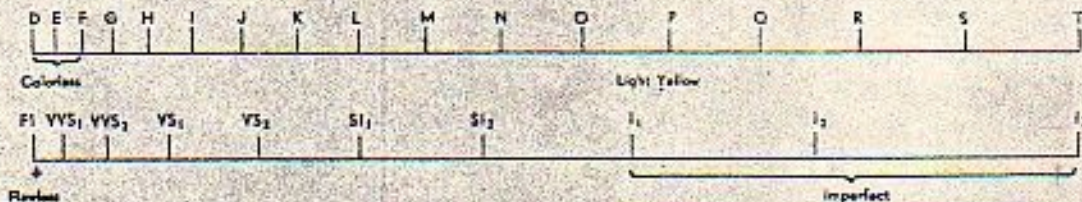
minute surface abrasions due to wear and
internal textural characteristic, not plotted.

[Red symbols denote internal characteristics; green, external. Symbols indicate nature and position of characteristics; not necessarily their size.]

Gem Trade Laboratory

by [Signature]

GIA
COLOR- AND
CLARITY-GRADING
SYSTEM



"The Great Diamonds of
the World"

Harpers Franklin Square
by Edwin W. Streeter
1881

Under the Mahratta Power.—"Gifts of the Gods."—A Present to the East India Company.—Reminiscences of a Royal Birthday.—Recut by order of the Marquis of Westminster.

THE town of Nassak, variously written Nassac, Nassik, Nasik, Nossick, etc., lies on the Upper Godavary, 95 miles by rail north-east of Bombay. In the neighborhood are some famous cave-temples, and in the days of the Mahratta ascendancy this town was a noted place of pilgrimage, annually resorted to by thousands of devotees. The offerings of these worshippers of Shiva, the presiding genius of the district, caused here, as elsewhere throughout the peninsula a gradual accumulation of vast treasures in the local shrines. While the Mahratta power flourished these treasures were respected, but when they fell upon evil days, the Peishwas—nominal heads of the great confederacy—helped themselves freely to the "gifts of the gods," thereby acquiring the means to carry on their incessant wars against rival chiefs, and finally against the all-absorbing "Company Bahadur." When Bajerow, the last independent Peishwa, surrendered to the British in the last Mahratta war of 1818, his baggage became the "loot" of the conquerors. Among the prizes of war seized on that occasion was this diamond, which the Peishwa had already taken from the Temple of Shiva, in Nassak, and which was thence known as the "Nassak" diamond. It had been concealed by his orders, but was brought to light by Colonel J. Briggs, who forthwith handed it over to the Marquis of Hastings, under whom the combined operations against the Peishwa had been conducted. By him it was presented to the East India Company, but was ultimately given up, and formed part of the booty, being at the time valued at £30,000. It was thus brought to the London market in the year 1818, and soon afterward sold by the East India Company to Messrs. Rundell & Bridge. Mawe, who had the opportunity of seeing it, describes it as "a diamond of great purity, but of a bad form." He gives its weight as 79 carats and 2 grains (the 79 being an obvious misprint for 89), and adds that "its form is triangular, and it is cut and polished so as to retain the greatest possible weight; but it exhibits none of the qualities which it would so proudly display if it had been well proportioned."

When it reached Europe the "Nassak," which had been badly cut in India, presented very much the form and appearance of the "Koh-i-Nûr," the native cutter having, as usual, sacrificed everything to size. Hence, when Messrs. Rundell became the owners they found it desirable to have it recut, and in doing so they pursued a very wise course. By instructing the artist to keep as closely as possible to the traces of the Hindoo cutter, "amending his defects, and accommodating the pattern to the exigencies of the subject matter, they transformed the rudely-faceted, lustreless mass into a diamond of perfect brilliancy, at the sacrifice of no more than ten per cent. of its original weight."

The thread of the history is then taken up by Murray, who tells us that "it has remained for ten years in the possession of Rundell & Bridge, and was disposed of by public sale in London in July, 1831,* for the sum of £7200 to Emanuel Brothers. Its weight is stated to be 89½ carats. The amount realized by the sale of the 'Nassak' diamond scarcely amounted to one-third of its previously estimated amount."

It was in the month of August, 1837, that the "Nassak" and a number of other costly gems were put up to sale by Messrs. Emanuel, in Willis's Lower Room, King Street, St. James's. The "Nassak," and the diamond earrings presented by the Nabob of Arcot to Queen Charlotte, together with the brilliant brooch purchased by Emanuel from Bevis Marks, were knocked down to the Marquis of Westminster, who presented the ear-rings and brooch to the marchioness as a birthday present.

At the Drawing-room on Queen Victoria's birthday, immediately succeeding her accession to the British throne, the Marquis of Westminster wore the "Nassak" diamond on the hilt of his sword, and "the marchioness intended on the same occasion to have worn the 'Arcot' diamonds, but indisposition prevented her attendance."

We have seen that the "original weight" was 89½ carats, and this was now reduced to 78½ carats—a very slight sacrifice compared with the loss suffered by the "Koh-i-Nûr," and some other Indian stones, when recut in London or Amsterdam. Kluge says the recutting was executed "by order of the Marquis of Westminster." But this must be a mistake; for the operation, as already stated, was performed by Messrs. Rundell before the stone was put up to sale in July, 1837, and consequently before the marquis had any control over it.

It gained so much in the lapidary's hands that this gem is now reputed to be worth from £23,000 to £30,000, and it must not be forgotten that the stone was sold when times were very bad and money scarce.

"The Diamond Dictionary"

by The Gemological Institute of America
1960

Diamond Dictionary

Nassak Diamond (also spelled Nasik, Nassac, Nassack, Nessuck).

At present, a colorless emerald cut of 43.38 carats. As known in India, it was triangular in shape and



Nassak Diamond, as it appeared in its 80.59-carat, triangular form (approximately actual size)

weighed more than 90 carats. It was once among the treasures of a Hindu temple near the city of Nasak, where it was said to have been an eye of an idol of the god Shiva, deity of destruction and reproduction. After the Maharatta War of 1818, it fell into the hands of the Marquis of Hastings and became part of the "Deccan Booty." The great diamond then became known as the *Nassak*. It was sent to England and was valued at \$150,000, but in 1831 it was sold at auction during a serious depression at the "distressed" price of approximately \$36,000. In 1877, it again went to the auction block and was sold to the Duke of Westminster, who mounted it in the hilt of his dress sword. In 1927, Georges Mauboussin, the Paris jeweler, imported the *Nassak* to the United States for sale as an artistic antique. By this time

it had been recut from its original Indian weight to an 80.59-carat stone of unusual beauty and brilliancy, still retaining its triangular shape. The diamond then returned to Paris, where it was purchased by Harry Winston, New York City gem dealer. Winston brought it back to New York, refashioned it to its present 43.38-carat emerald-cut shape, and sold it to Trabert & Hoefler. Since 1944, the *Nassak* has been owned by Mrs. William B. Leeds, of New York City, who wears it in a ring. Also sometimes called the *Eye of Shiva Diamond*.

"Notable Diamonds of the World"

by De Beers Consolidated Mines, Limited
1973

NASSAK - 43.38 carats

Centuries ago, some prince of the Mahrattas placed this large diamond in an eye of a statue of Shiva in one of the cave-temples at Nassak. When the British conquered the district in 1818, this diamond, already called the Nassak, was part of their booty. Taken to London, it was valued at \$150,000.

At this time, the Nassak was a triangular stone of 90 carats, cut for weight in the Indian fashion. Rundell and Bridge, the English jewelers, had it recut to 80.59 carats for greater brilliance. The cutting was done so skillfully that the triangular shape was retained.

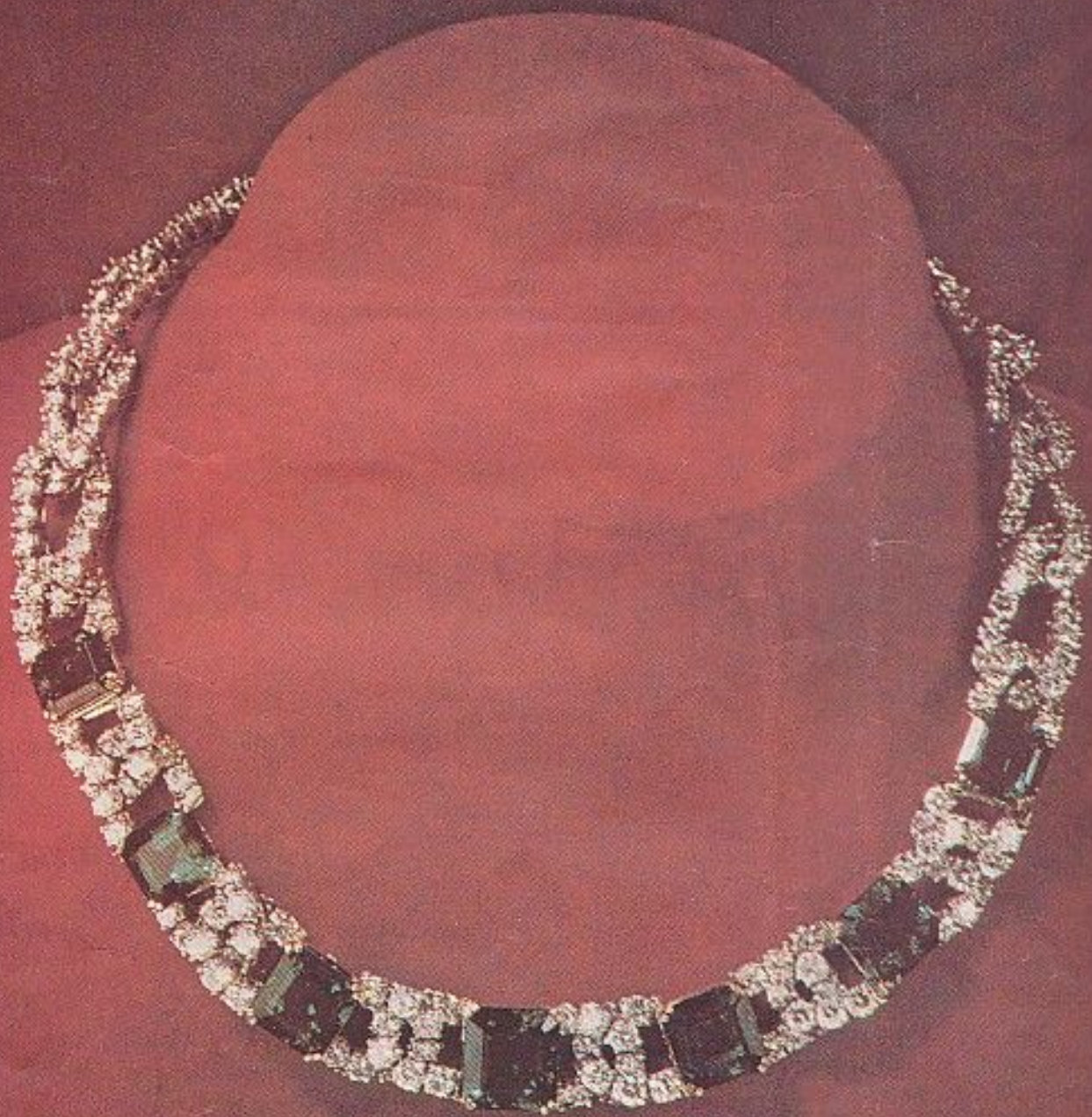
In 1831, the diamond was bought at auction by the Emanuel Bros. In 1837, it was purchased by the Marquess of Westminster and remained in his family for a century. George Mauboussin, the Paris jeweler, then bought the Nassak, and brought it to New York for display as an artistic antique.

Returned to Europe, the diamond was soon back in New York with Harry Winston, who recut the stone to its present weight, and in 1944 sold it to Mrs. William B. Leeds. The Nassak was auctioned at Parke-Bernet Galleries in 1970, and bought by Edward Hand, of Greenwich, Conn., for \$500,000.



"The Shiny Sheet"

PALM BEACH, FLORIDA, FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1976



This emerald and diamond necklace, designed by Angela Cummings, is part of the Tiffany collection of jewelry that will be on exhibition at Wally Findlay Galleries Saturday, March 13. Proceeds from the

preview of the jewelry will be donated to the American Cancer Society. Henry B. Platt of Tiffany and Co. is bringing the jewelry to Palm Beach for the benefit. The price of the necklace is \$1.5 million.

4.95 CTs.
RUSSKIN
Perfect
AKxxx





HISTORY OF THE EMERALD & DIAMOND BROOCH

This emerald and diamond brooch set in a gold silver-top mounting contains one fine emerald estimated to weigh between 60 and 70 carats surrounded by two rows of rose diamonds and 20 old mine diamonds estimated to weigh about $16\frac{1}{2}$ carats.

It originally belonged to Catherine II, the Great, who ascended to the throne of Russia in 1762 after her husband, Peter III, was murdered. She died in 1796. During her life time she gave this emerald and diamond brooch as a wedding gift to Hohenzollern the ruling Prussian and German family.

This brooch was purchased from the Prince of Hohenzollern (a nephew of the recipient.

Belonged to Catherine II of the Russian 18th Century - given to Hoenzollen (Kaiser family in Germany) as a wedding gift. Bought from nephew of Prince of Hoenzollen. 60-70 cts. Emerald, 30.5x2.51x11m haliface. Cut with small facets, back is step cut. Gold silver top. Emerald set in narrow bezel surrounded by two rows of rose diamonds. Surrounded by 20 O.M. diamonds ob $16\frac{1}{2}$ cts. ranging from $1/2$ - $1\frac{1}{4}$ cts.



National Museum of Natural History · Smithsonian Institution

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20560 · TEL. 202-628-1810

September 18, 1972

Mrs. Hermine Weinberg
9300 Wilshire Boulevard
Beverly Hills, California 90210

Dear Mrs. Weinberg:

I understand that you have recently acquired the magnificent antique diamond and emerald brooch known as the Catherine the Great Emerald Brooch. I have seen this piece on several occasions and it is without doubt both an outstanding emerald in size and color, and an outstanding antique jewel.

The Smithsonian Institution is constantly trying to upgrade its already fine gem collection through acquisition of unique items such as the Catherine the Great emerald, and I hope, therefore, you won't think me out of place in writing to you about it.

If at any time you should decide to donate this gem to a museum, I want you to know that the Smithsonian would consider it to be a major acquisition. Our gem collection is one of the most popular in the entire Smithsonian complex, and is visited each year by several millions of people. And, of course, donors names appear on the labels, unless for some reason they wish to remain anonymous.

It will be greatly appreciated if you keep us in mind. You now own a great gem, and it would be splendid if some day it could be exhibited in our National Museum.

Sincerely yours,

George Switzer
Curator
Department of Mineral Sciences

Blind cc: Joseph Samuel
J. and S. S. DeYoung, Inc.
Room 802
373 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108



Milano 10. Sept. 1965

Hiermit erkläre ich, dass
die auf anliegender Photo abge-
bildete Smaragdbrücke aus dem
Besitz der Kaiserin Katharina von
Russland stammt und durch
Erbchaft an die Großherzogin
Maria Pawlowna von Sachsen
Weimar in den Besitz des
Prinzen Friedrich Leopold von
Preussen

Translation

Herewith I declare that on the opposite side
of this letter is shown a photograph of the
emerald brooch
which comes out of the estate of the Emperess
Katharina of Russia.

By inheritance it went to the grand-duchess
Maria Pawlowna von Sachsen - Weimar and became
so the possession of the father of Friedrich -
Leopold von Preussen. He sold it at that time
to Mr. Enzo Colombo in Milano.

Barone F. Cerrini

Milano Sept. 10, 1955

20,080

7 Oct. 7/19/66

Picturion bank

R

David Colombo

J. D. P.

Swiss Credit Bank
Chiasso, Switzerland

Antique Emerald + Dias. Brooch BKK, XXX -

(A. Her 3/16 Plat. Lorraine pin BK -

Gold - Silver top - wtz.

11/18/66 - 11/18/66 - 11/18/66 - 11/18/66

BKK, XXX

66 67

LX

68 69

70 71

Hexagon emerald 60.- to 70.- cts. -

30.5 X 25.1 X 11 mm - Gem color -

imperfections through haliface -

Cut with small facets - back is steep -

surface scratches in table -

2 rows of rose diam. surround emerald

outer edge - 20 dias. - in prongs

(see back picture)
1 - 1/2 ct

O.M. - at. 16 1/2 cts. - from 1/2 to 1 1/4 ct. each

Brooch belonged to Catherine, Ts. 18th Century Russian

given to Hohenzollern (Kaiser family in Germany) as a

wedding gift - Bought from nephew of

Hohenzollern - Catherine the Great born 1729 ^{dead} 1796(Shows him BSK, XXX -
Sale of Puz. each reduced
same BX, XXX -)

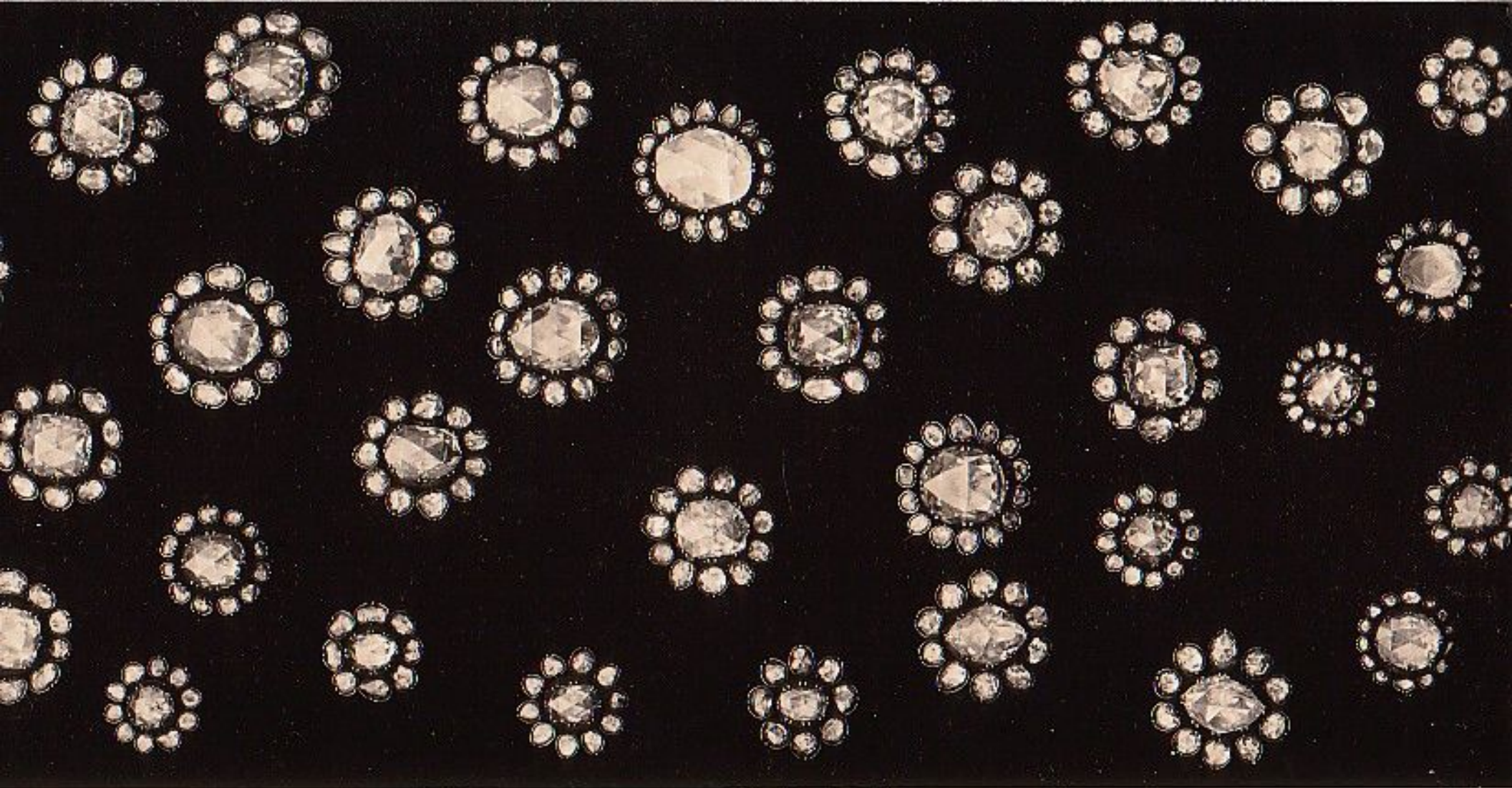
BKK, XXX

LX, XXX

KX, XXX

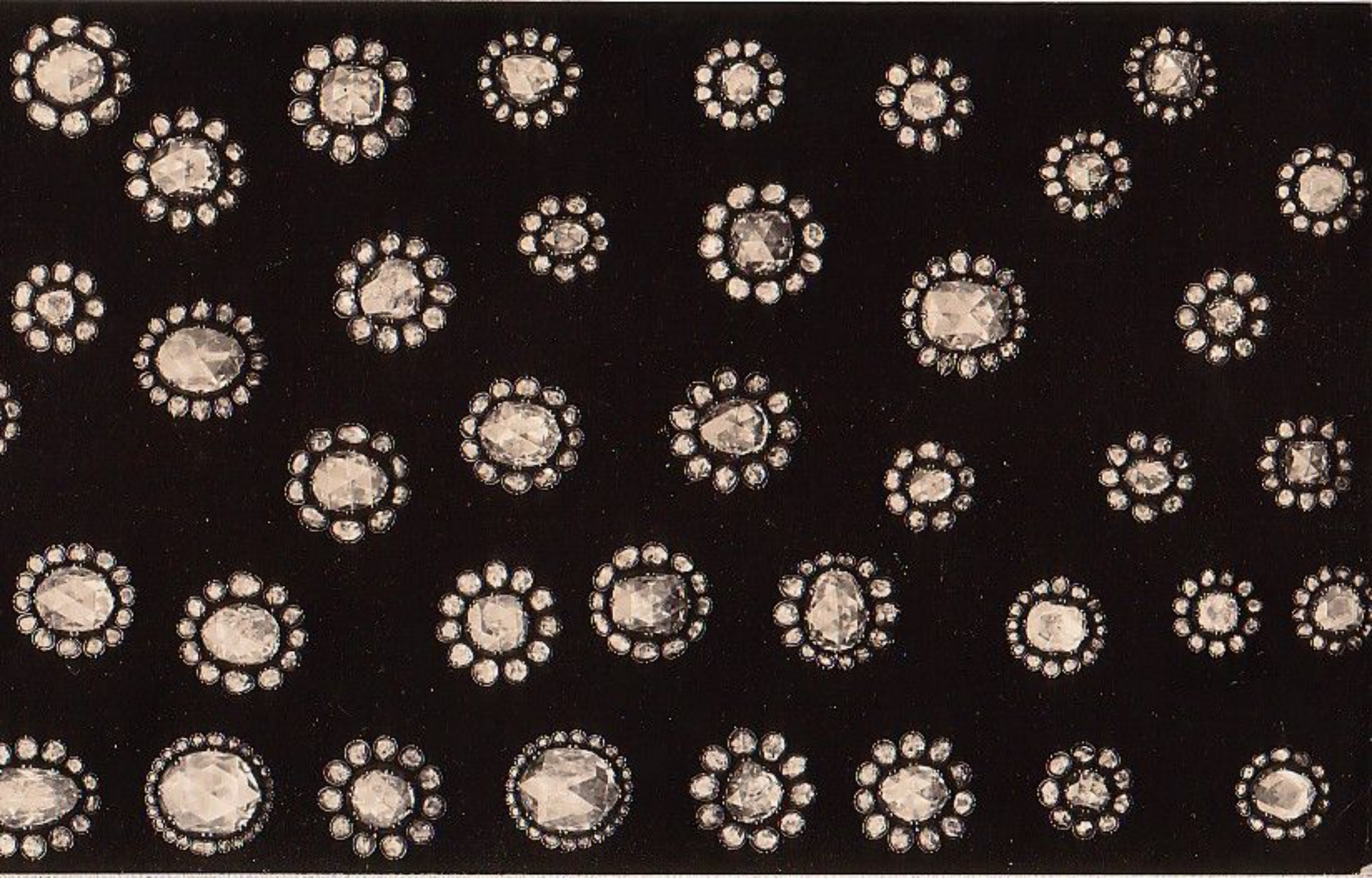
LX, XXX

trans moved 7/7/72



COLLECTION OF ROSE DIAMOND BUTTONS - MAXIMILLIAN III 1763

75 ROSE DIAMOND CENTERS 257 $\frac{9}{32}$ CTS. - 890 ROSE DIAMOND BORDERS 148 $\frac{15}{32}$ CTS.



München, 28. August 1931.
Max-Joseph-Platz 9 | Tel. 10000

Direktion
der Museen und Kunstsammlungen
des ehemaligen Kronrates
in Bayern.

B e s t ä t i g u n g .

Es wird hiermit bestätigt, dass die Knopfgarnitur aus Brillanten, Inventurnummer *B 164* sich entweder seit dem Jahre 1770 als aus dem Besitz des Herzogs Clemens de Paula stammend, oder seit dem Jahre 1763, in welchem Jahre eine solche Knopfgarnitur im Auftrag des Kurfürsten Max III. Joseph von einem Münchener Juwelier aus Steinen, die von Max Emanuel erworben worden waren, gefasst wurde, nachweisen lässt.

*Für die Richtigkeit hiermit
ausf. durch Herrn Dr. Stern:*

Dr. H. Stern



*H. Stern
Hauptkommissar der
Kunstsammlungen*

Translation.

Direction
of the Museums and Art Collections
of the late Crown Possessions
in Bavaria.

Munich, August 28 1931

Confirmation.

It is herewith confirmed that the set of brilliant-buttons, inventory number B. 164 can be traced either originating since the year 1770 from the property of Duke Clemens de Paula or since the year 1763, in which year a similar button-set was mounted by order of the Elector Max III Joseph by a jeweler in Munich from stones acquired from Max Emanuel.

For the rightness of the archival statements
signed Dr. H. Stern

Seal Dr. Arin Hauslader
Chief conservator the residence
museum.





Attestation :

Cette grande Broche en brillants, avec émeraude hexagone, une grande émeraude cabochon et une goutte émeraude, (brillants du Brésil et émeraudes anciennes de Colombie) monture or et serti argent fin, représentée par cette photographie, fait partie de la collection des bijoux de la famille du Duc G. de Leuchtenberg - de la Maison de Beauharnais - et de la Princesse O. Reprine son épouse.

Le Duc G. de Leuchtenberg est le petit-fils du Prince Eugène, vice-Roi d'Italie, qui est lui-même fils de l'Impératrice Joséphine.

Ces bijoux ont été confiés, pour la vente, à Mr. Aug. Seiler, Orfèvre-Expert à Vevey (Suisse) qui, par sa signature, en garantit l'origine et l'authenticité.

Fait à Vevey le 2 Avril 1930.

Aug. Seiler

He Owns Jewel Pieces Napoleon Presented to Empress Josephine

1/13 Palm Beach Daily News

By JAMIE PRILLAMAN

Daily News Staff Writer

Terence McCabe recently bought an emerald and diamond brooch given to the Empress Josephine by Napoleon and transported the valuable piece of jewelry from New York in a green plastic shopping bag.

McCabe, the jeweler at the Colony, is probably the only person in the history of aviation who tries to be at the end of the line — instead of toward the beginning of the line. Since he decided it would be best to be inconspicuous and the airline officials wouldn't let McCabe check through the anti-hijack metal detectors privately, he simply waited till there was no one around and showed them the metal piece he was carrying in the bag.

The brooch has a central emerald of approximately 55 carats, McCabe said.

The round cut emeralds — called cabochons — hanging like droplets from the brooch are approximately 20 carats each.

The leaves on the brooch are covered with diamonds — and each leaf stem is covered with tiny, tiny diamonds. Altogether there are over 60 carats worth of diamonds, McCabe said.

The gift to Empress Josephine, who married Napoleon in 1796, and was divorced by him in 1810. He later married Maria Louisa, an Austrian princess.

The brooch is valued at \$500,000 intrinsically (the worth of the stones), he said.

According to experts, McCabe said, the piece is composed of fine emeralds.

"Emeralds today are scarce and popular, everybody wants green," McCabe said.

Done in silver, "platinum was not discovered in those days," the craftsmanship is superb, McCabe said.

"You couldn't get anyone to reproduce the piece exactly," he said.

The work is all done by hand — today certain pieces are cast.

"It's a lost art," McCabe said. "People don't have time to do it and the work would be so expensive."

The brooch was acquired by McCabe in a private sale as an investment. "Anything tangible today has got to become more valuable," he said.

Whoever the jeweler was who designed and crafted the piece made it so it could be worn four ways.

Of course it may be worn as the complete regal piece it is, or the leaf section detach and the center emerald, surrounded by diamonds may be worn alone.

The bottom leaf section lifts off leaving the center emerald and the two upper leaf sections or the two upper leaf sections unscrew and leave the emerald and the bottom leaf section with the cabochon.

The Empress Josephine's descendants sold the piece in the 1930's.

McCabe said there was no information with the brooch telling exactly when Napoleon gave the brooch to his wife.



Staff Photo by TOM PURIN

McCabe with the brooch



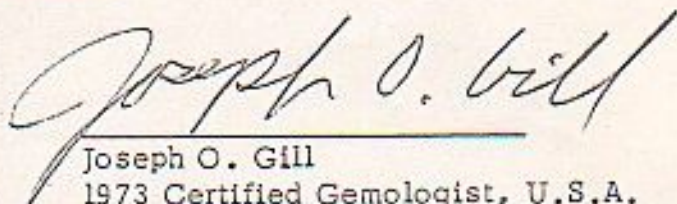
July 6, 1978

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The ruby now weighing 34.25 cts. was cut by Gordon Bares, gem stone lapidary in New York City, about April 7, 1978 from a blunt shape drop weighing 35.22 cts..

This is the same ruby as described by Edwin Streeter in his publication, Gems and Precious Stones, 1877 as being a blunt shape drop recut by James N. Forster in London from 47 1/16 cts. to 39 3/10 cts.. Edwin Streeter was the owner and operator of the Burmah Ruby Mining Company. Edwin Streeter in his publication describes this as one of the two finest rubies ever mined. From 1870 up to the present, every gem ruby over 10 cts. is registered with the Burmese government. I have personally examined every one of these annual reports from 1880 to the present, and there has never been mined or registered any other ruby that could be considered similar. There is no other similar faceted Burmese ruby in any of the world's major gem collections.

There is no question in my mind that this Burmese ruby now weighing 34.25 cts. is the one and the same as described by Edwin Streeter, having been repolished by previous owners.



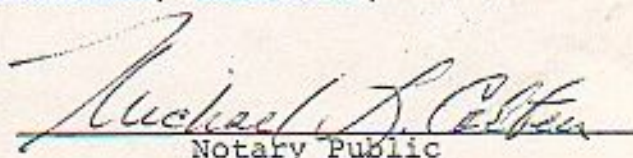
Joseph O. Gill
1973 Certified Gemologist, U.S.A.
1973 Fellow of the Gemmological
Assoc. of Great Britain
1971 BSc in Mineralogy

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Suffolk, ss.

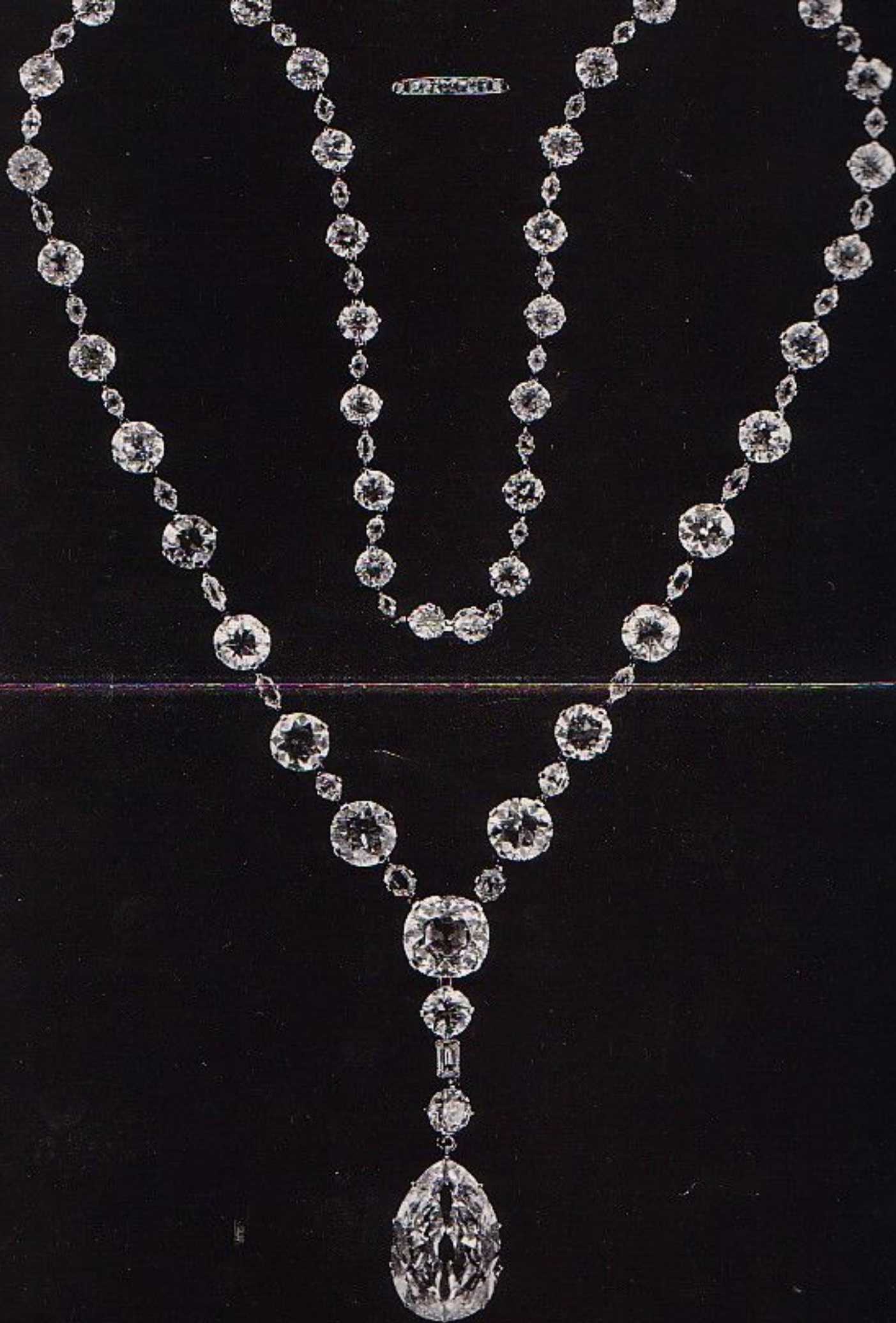
July 6, 1978

Then personally appeared Joseph O. Gill and made oath that the foregoing is his professional conclusion, before me,



Notary Public

My Commission Expires: May 4, 1984



THE UNIQUE
DIAMOND NECKLACE

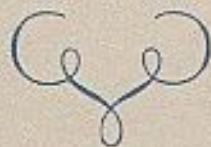
OF THE LATE

MRS JOHN E. ROVENSKY

TO BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION
WITH RESERVE · BY ORDER OF THE
EXECUTORS OF HER ESTATE

ON

Wednesday · January 23



AT THE

PARKE-BERNET GALLERIES · INC

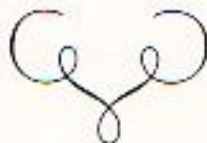
980 MADISON AVENUE · NEW YORK

1957

INTRODUCTION

IN THE HISTORY of the West, the diamond has always occupied the primary place of importance among all gems, and the roster of the world's great stones bears witness to their association with the prestige of its social and economic rulers. The *collecting* of diamonds began, probably, in India; and in the West a tireless search has gone on for matched diamonds of the finest quality which could be combined into necklaces or patures. Such a collection is to be found in the Rovensky necklace, in which the superb pear-shaped stone forms a pendant to the cushion-shaped diamond and the remarkable pairs of round diamonds which form its principal components. Whether such a necklace could be assembled today is a matter of opinion; if it could, the search for the component stones might well be a matter of years. It is, in any event, the most important item of jewelry ever to be offered at public auction in the United States.

LOUIS J. MARION



TO BE SOLD IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING LOT 117
IN ROVENSKY JEWELRY CATALOGUE, NUMBER 1726

DIAMOND NECKLACE WITH PENDANT

The necklace is composed as follows:

PEAR-SHAPED DIAMOND, a gem stone of approximately 46.50 carats

TWO ROUND DIAMONDS, totaling approximately 7.25 carats

CUSHION-SHAPED DIAMOND, approximately 21 carats

TWO LARGE ROUND DIAMONDS, totaling approximately 16.25 carats

EIGHT ROUND DIAMONDS, totaling approximately 41.15 carats

SIX ROUND DIAMONDS, totaling approximately 16.40 carats

SIX ROUND DIAMONDS, totaling approximately 13.40 carats

EIGHTEEN ROUND DIAMONDS, totaling approximately 35.90 carats

EMERALD-CUT DIAMOND, approximately .75 carat

FORTY FANCY DIAMONDS, oval shaped, totaling approximately 13 carats

SHORTENER PIN, set with nine small square-cut diamonds, totaling approximately 1.50 carats

Total weight of diamonds, approximately 213.10 carats.

The whole is mounted on a platinum chain.

The pear-shaped diamond is from Tiffany & Co., New York; all the other stones, the setting and the workmanship are by Cartier.



hasta el general Windsor los convirtieron en realeza hollywoodense. El mundo estaba a la expectativa.

También mientras estaba en Roma, Elizabeth conoció a un muy joven Valentino, a quien llamó Rudy por Rodolfo Valentino. Su amistad y colaboración constantes

cambiaron, a su vez, la forma de hacer moda y usar a las celebridades como su mejor vitrina.

Burton, completamente enamorado de Elizabeth, la bañaba en joyas y pieles y otras extravagancias. "La única palabra que Elizabeth sabe decir en italiano es Bulgari",

repetiría el actor muchas veces a lo largo de sus diez años de matrimonio. El primero fue el collar de diamantes y esmeraldas de la joyería italiana, que Burton le regaló en 1962. El diamante Krupp fue en 1968 un anillo de 33,19 kilates por el que pagó 305 mil dólares de los sesenta, el diamante





69.42 cts

P.S. Dia.

recut now

68.09



Cartier Pays a Record \$1,050,000 for Diamond

By CHARLOTTE CURTIS

CARTIER paid \$1,050,000 for an exceptional pear-shaped, 69.42-carat diamond at Parke-Bernet yesterday afternoon, making the jewel the costliest gem stone ever auctioned.

The unnamed stone, which experts pronounced flawless, resembles a peach pit in size. It may be called the Cartier Diamond unless the Fifth Avenue jewelry store was acting for a private customer, and a Cartier spokesman wasn't saying.

If there is such a customer, he or she apparently is not Elizabeth Taylor Burton. A man who said he was representing the actress withdrew from the contest when the price reached \$1-million.

There was also serious talk among the diamond men that the real buyer was Aristotle S. Onassis, who planned to give the jewel to his wife, the former Jacqueline Kennedy. But Cartier refused to comment.

Definite About Name

"The diamond is the Cartier Diamond now for the moment," said Robert Kenmore, chairman of the Kenton Corporation, which owns Cartier. "If someone should want to change the name, they can. But it is the Cartier Diamond while it is in our possession." Parke-Bernet would not disclose the identity of the seller.

Mr. Kenmore added that he was "not a free agent," which seemed to indicate a private customer. But it was he who did the bidding, and it went quickly indeed.

The first bid was \$200,000, and from there, with nine people bidding, it rushed to \$500,000, then bogged down among the bidders who raised each other by \$25,000 each



Mrs. Michael Watter of Washington, left, and Mrs. Philip Levin, second from left, were among those who attended Parke-Bernet auction. "I never buy jewelry without my husband," Mrs. Levin remarked wistfully.



Al Yugler, Frank Pollack & Sons, said his client was Mrs. Richard Burton.

At \$600,000, the bids dropped to \$10,000 apiece, then sped ahead to \$850,000, on to \$1-million, when the underbidder dropped out, and finally to the \$1,050,000.

Men and women leaped out

of their chairs as the bids climbed, turned to watch Mr. Kenmore in a back row, and cheered and applauded at the point of sale. Mrs. Robert Scull, wife of the art collector, said she'd never seen anything like it.

"Wowee," she said. "That was something, wasn't it?"

The diamond was displayed in its platinum ring with two side diamonds, but it was so far from the front-row spectators that hardly anyone could see why it was considered so important.

The stone has been described as being like the Krupp diamond, the 33.10-carat, emerald-cut stone worn by Vera Krupp von Bohlen and sold in May, 1968, to Mrs. Burton for \$305,000. Both diamonds were cut and mounted by Harry Winston, the New York jeweler.

The previous world auction record was \$385,000 paid for a diamond necklace from the estate of May Hayward Ro-

vensky, a New Yorker, in 1957. The 83-carat Jahangir Diamond was sold in London in 1957 for \$40,000 and the 70.20-carat Idol's Eye sold at Parke-Bernet in 1962 for \$375,000. Neither was the quality of the Cartier Diamond.

The Hope Diamond, by comparison, was appraised for between \$1 and \$2 million when Mr. Winston gave it to the Smithsonian Institution in 1958. So yesterday's auction record does not mean that the Cartier Diamond is the most expensive in the world—only that it brought more at auction.

The sale itself was jammed with 800 dealers, agents and few social figures, and they bid a grand total of \$2,688,145 on 162 lots, mostly from the estate of the late Florence Bacon Gould, a racehorse owner.

Edward J. Hand, the trucking tycoon, bought a diamond seahorse clip (\$37)



Robert Kenmore, whose bid on behalf of Cartier's was the successful one.

for the lady who accompanied him to the sale and helped send a ruby and diamond necklace up to \$70,000. It went for \$76,000. And Mrs. Philip Levin, wife of the financier, looked wistfully at

a wide ruby bracelet studded with enormous marquise diamonds.

"But I never buy jewelry without my husband," she said.

Mrs. Robert Gurney, wife of the industrialist, waved and waved from the balcony above the black leather seats and finally caught the auctioneer's attention. She wanted a ruby and diamond flower brooch, and got it at \$4,750.

Mrs. William B. Jaffee was in the balcony, too, but purely as an onlooker. Her brother, Walter Annenberg, is Ambassador to the Court of St. James's, and she has an extensive jewel collection.

The best of the jewels went to dealers. Sidney de Young of Boston paid \$142,500, the second highest price at the sale, for an emerald and diamond brooch scores of women had admired before the show.

Members of New York's diamond brigade were not out in force either, mostly because they weren't interested.

Why Bother?

"I don't need any more diamonds," said Mrs. Charlotte Ford Niarchos, Henry Ford 2d's daughter. "Why would I bother?"

Mrs. Peter I. B. Lavan, wife of the attorney; Mrs. Joseph Lauder, the cosmetics manufacturer, and Mrs. Archie Preissman, wife of the Beverly Hills real-estate man, didn't bother either.

"Diamonds aren't much of an investment these days," Mrs. Lavan said. "And with the market the way it is, there isn't much cash around."

"Nobody I know wants a diamond," said Mrs. Preiss-

WHY THE BIG RUSH TO BUY UP GEMS



Crowd views gem bought for Miss Taylor.

Americans and foreign visitors to the U. S. this year are expected to pay a record sum—more than 1 billion dollars—for precious stones.

One of the main reasons for the boom is that more and more people are concluding that gems not only are decorative but are a good investment as well.

Buyers of jewels are finding, also, that they often are less expensive in the U. S. than abroad, particularly since the dollar's value has dropped overseas.

Investors in fine-quality emeralds are discovering that these gems are appreciating in value by about 10 per cent to 15 per cent a year. Top-grade opals are described as having increased up to 50 per cent in price during the past three months.

There have been sharp boosts in the selling price, also, of diamonds, rubies and sapphires as a result of the heavy buying of gems. Some examples of costly purchases:

- A Washington woman, Mrs. Enid Annenberg Haupt, sold a 34-carat emerald ring at the Sotheby Parke Bernet gallery in New York in December, 1972, for \$385,000—believed to be a record auction price for a colored gem. Four years before, she had acquired the ring for \$265,000 at a sale by outbidding film producer Carlo Ponti.

- At an auction in 1969, actor Richard Burton paid \$1,050,000 for a diamond which he gave to his wife, actress Elizabeth Taylor.

- An emerald necklace sold for more than 1 million dollars in Switzerland in 1971.

Behind the boom. "If people have money, gems are a wonderful thing to invest in," says Robert V. Sullivan, vice

president of Van Cleef & Arpels, a New York-based jewelry company. "Jewelry is an item that's very small and easily transported—not like a home or fur coats or currency which take up space."

Mr. Sullivan says that the prices of precious stones unquestionably will continue to increase.

Another reason for the popularity of gems, dealers say, is that precious stones are easy to hide in places where they may escape—illegally—assessment for inheritance taxes.

The majority of buyers, however, are described as men purchasing gifts for their wives and friends.

"This is still the biggest reason for buying gems," says Edward H. Ayre, a Washington, D. C., jeweler.

Another factor in the boom is an inter-continental buying spree by the newly rich business and professional classes of Japan and Europe.

Says Norbert Jacob, buyer for the C. D. Peacock jewelry firm of Chicago:

"Japanese citizens are buying fine jewels at almost any price. This drives up the price of jewels on the world market. Japanese retailers are even buying



—Cartier, Wide World Photos

Actress Elizabeth Taylor wears diamond for which her husband, actor Richard Burton, paid \$1,050,000. Jewels are increasingly popular among buyers seeking to avoid the fluctuations of currency.

jewels at American retail stores such as ours and selling them in Japan at a profit."

At the same time, several traditional sources of supply, including ruby and emerald mines in Burma, have virtually shut down in the wake of disputes between the owners and local governments. The result of all the trouble is an unprecedented rise in wholesale prices of the remaining stocks, with some jewels costing dealers hundreds of thousands of dollars each.

Pitfalls to watch. Jewelers warn that buying gems as an investment can be tricky, and that purchasers are sometimes disappointed.

Stones may decrease in value as styles change. In addition, some unscrupulous merchants occasionally sell flawed gems at inflated prices.

In other cases, customers simply overlook "good buys." A woman, for example, recently walked into an East Coast jeweler's shop and proudly displayed a \$3,500 pair of diamond earrings she had bought in Europe.

The jeweler didn't have the heart to tell her that he recognized the pair as one he had been unable to sell in his own store for \$2,000, and had exported to a dealer on the Continent where the woman had found them.

Record gem sales are predicted in 1973.

—US&WR Photo



GEMOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

The Nonprofit Educational Organization of the Jewelry Industry

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580 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10036
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GIA

Richard T. Liddicoat, Jr. President

Founded in 1931 by Robert M. Shipley

COMMUNICATE WITH NEW YORK OFFICE

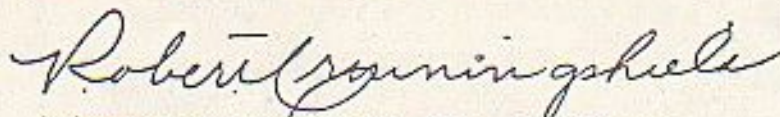
February 13, 1979

To Whom It May Concern:

Reference: Report Number NY 226181

Examination of the 69.42 carat pear shape brilliant covered in the report indicates that with repolishing it is potentially flawless or internally flawless.

Sincerely,
Gemological Institute of America
Gem Trade Laboratory, Inc.



Robert Crowningshield, Vice-President
Director-Eastern Headquarters

RC/aa

GEMOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

226181

GEM TRADE LABORATORY

Diamond Grading Report

NY 226181

1660 Stewart Street
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606 South Olive Street • Suite 1122
Los Angeles, California 90014
(213) 629-5435

580 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10036
(212) 221-5858

NEW YORK LABORATORY

Date February 13, 1979

Whom It May Concern:

complete quality grading:

DESCRIPTION	PROCEDURES
1 transparent colorless pear shape brilliant measuring approx. 34.00 x 23.35 x 14.99 mm.	10X binocular magnification Diamondlite & master color diamonds Ultra-violet * Millimeter gauge & reticle Diamond balance Proportionscope

Conclusion:.....DIAMOND, weight: 69.42 carats.....(see attached Diamond Report).....

The above client agrees to be responsible for and to hold the Gemological Institute of America (GIA) and its employees harmless from any and all injury, loss, damage, or destruction of said stone or stones while in the possession of GIA resulting from any cause whatsoever. The report is submitted to the above client for his exclusive use. The client understands that GIA is a non-profit organization, and is not acting as insurer. With that understanding, and the knowledge that the client may if it chooses to do so, obtain insurance against such risk the client hereby assumes risk of any such loss. Neither GIA, nor any of its employees shall be responsible for any action that may be taken in reliance on such report. The client agrees to hold GIA and its employees harmless from any claims based on the use of such report. As protection to the client, the public and GIA, neither this report nor the name or trademarks of Gemological Institute of America or the Gem Trade Laboratory may be used in whole or in part for any purpose, including, without limitation, in advertising, publicity or promotion.



-No Appraisals or Evaluations-

GEM TRADE LABORATORY
Gemological Institute of America

By *[Signature]*
NY 226181

ORIGINAL

GEMOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

GEM TRADE LABORATORY Diamond Report

In the opinion of the Laboratory, the following are the characteristics of the stone, or stones, described on the attached report as based on measurements and also on observations made through the Gemplotte (10x binocular darkfield magnification) and in the Diamond Lite, utilizing GIA master comparison stones.

Red symbols denote internal characteristics - green, external. Symbols in nature and position of characteristics, not necessarily their size.

SHAPE AND CUT pear shape brilliant
Measurements approx. 34.00 x 23.35 x 14.99 mm.
Weight 69.42 carats

Key to symbols

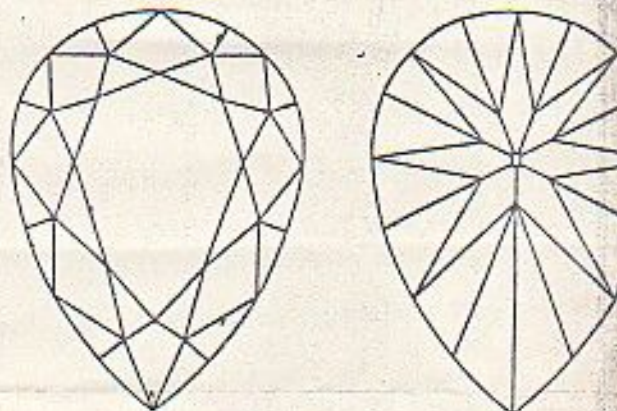
- - bruise
 - - feather
 - - chip
- Extra facet shown in black

PROPORTIONS
Depth Percentage 64.2%
Table Percentage 57%
Girdle Thickness thin to thick, faceted
Culet Size large, abraded

FINISH
Polish very good
Symmetry good

CLARITY GRADE VVS-2
Graining nil

COLOR GRADE F
Ultraviolet fluorescence none

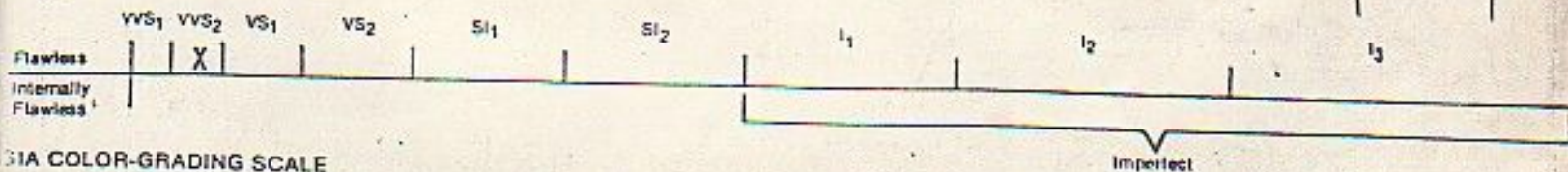


COMMENTS:
Numerous bruises and abrasions and details of girdle finish not shown.
Minor details of polish not shown.

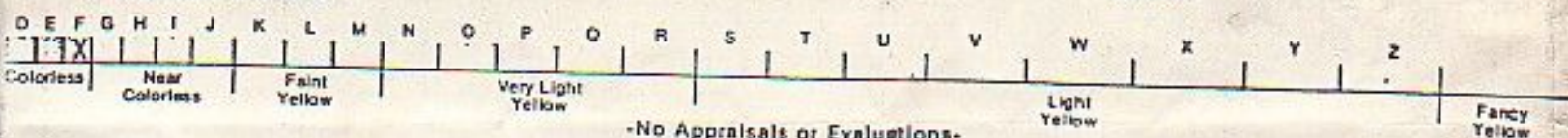
GEM TRADE LABORATORY
Gemological Institute of America

By *[Signature]*

GIA CLARITY-GRADING SCALE



GIA COLOR-GRADING SCALE



-No Appraisals or Evaluations-

ORIGINAL

TRUST - TRANSFER DEPARTMENT

CC 164412

BROWN BROTHERS HARRIMAN & CO.

PRIVATE BANKERS

59 WALL STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10005

1-460
260

ACCOUNT NUMBER

TYPE

2155950

1

AMOUNT
\$2,525,000.00

JUNE 19, 1979

PAY TO THE ORDER OF

ELIZABETH TAYLOR WARNER

PAYMENT ORDERED BY INST 6.19.79

BROWN BROTHERS HARRIMAN & CO.

BOSTON

CASHIER'S CHECK

E. Taylor

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

⑆ 164412 ⑆ ⑆ 026004802 ⑆ 243170 ⑆ 8 ⑆