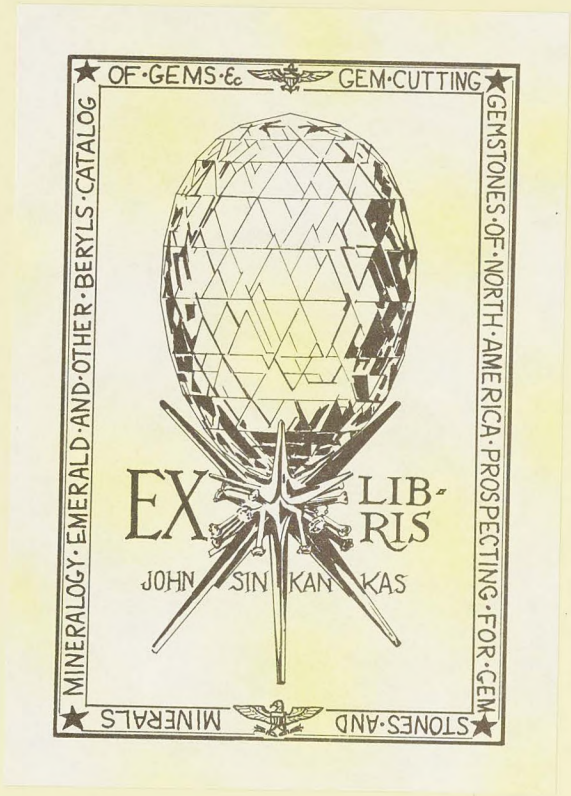


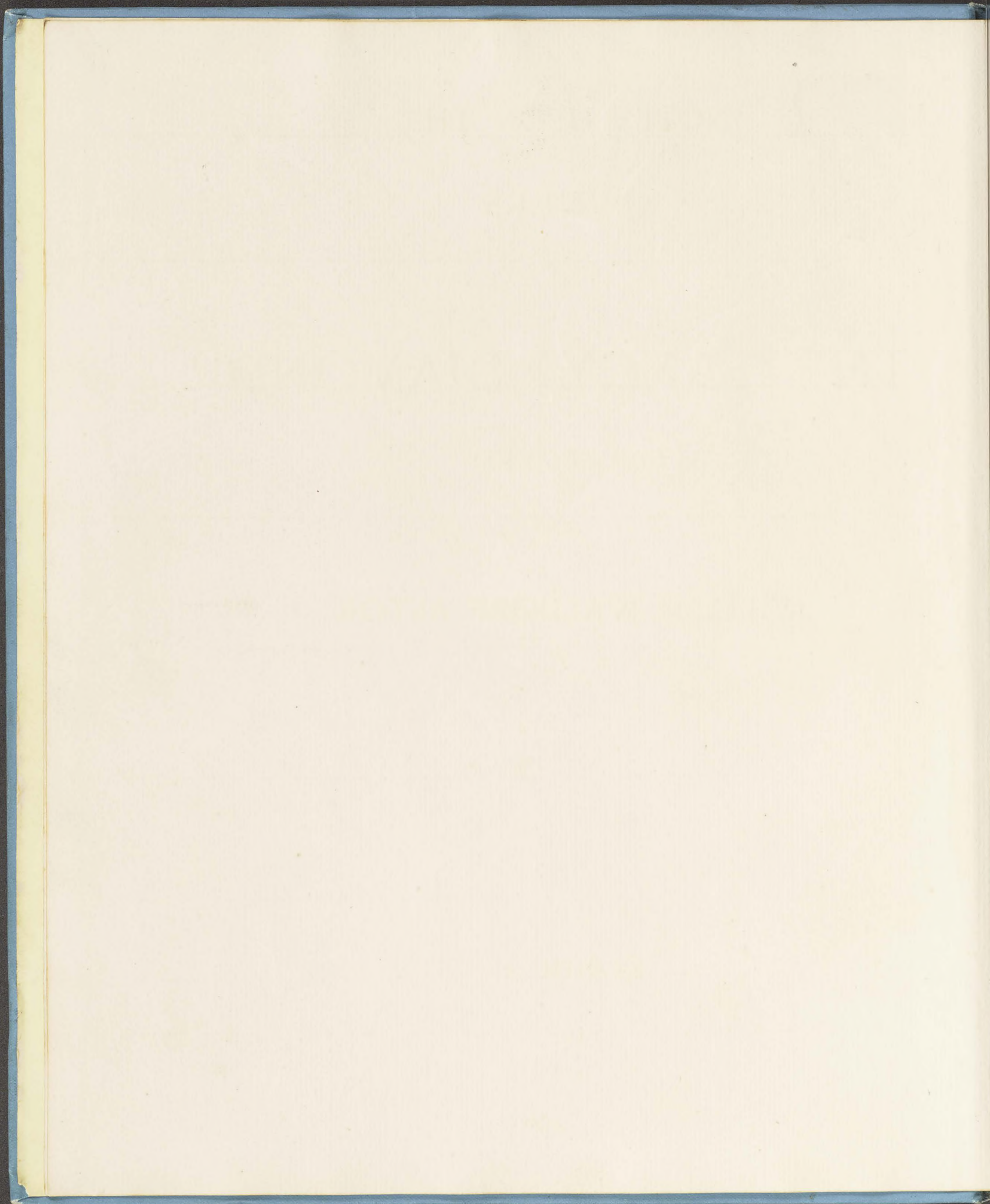
THE 'SANCY' DIAMOND

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NOTES UPON THE
OWNERS
OF
THE 'SANCY' DIAMOND

COLLECTED

BY

WILLIAM WALDORF ASTOR

LONDON

1893

NOTES UPON THE

OWNERS

THE 'SANCY' DIAMOND

COLLECTED

WILLIAM WALDOF ASTOR

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1895

CHARLES THE BOLD.

1433—1477.



THE Sancy diamond has been associated with the fortunes of Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, who is said to have worn it in his hat either at the battle of Morat, Nancy, or Granson, in 1476. It was found on the field by a Swiss soldier, who sold it to a priest for a florin, who resold it for three francs. Nicolas Harlai bought it of Don Antonio, Prior of Crats. One of the Fugger family made a drawing of the jewel, with a written description, and these were published by Lambecius in his "Bibliotheca Cæsarea."

CHARLES THE BOLD

1430-1477

The story of Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, is a tale of ambition and power. He was the last of the Valois dukes of Burgundy, and his reign was marked by a series of military campaigns and political maneuvering. He sought to unite the Burgundian lands with the French crown, but his efforts were ultimately thwarted. His death in 1477 led to the end of the Burgundian dynasty and the beginning of the Habsburg rule in the Low Countries.

NICOLAS HARLAI.

1546—1629.

NICOLAS HARLAI, Seigneur de Sancy, treasurer of King Henry IV., is said to have advanced it to that monarch under romantic circumstances. The messenger who was conveying it to the King was assassinated, and the gem was afterwards found in his stomach. There is little doubt that Harlai afterwards sold it to the British Crown during his residence in London between 1590 and 1600. Commines in his "Memoirs" describes the diamond as the "largest one then in the world, having an immense pearl attached to it."

NICHOLAS PAVAN

1880-1881

The following is a list of the names of the persons who were members of the Society during the year 1880-1881. The names are arranged in alphabetical order. The names of the persons who were members of the Society during the year 1880-1881 are as follows: [The following text is extremely faint and illegible.]

ELIZABETH.

1533—1603.



AS the transfer of the jewel was effected during Nicholas Harlai's residence at the English Court, it must have been in the possession of the English Crown during some part of the long and illustrious reign of Elizabeth. We yet seek a record which will point to the use made of the "Sancy" by the Virgin and Scholar Queen.

ELIZABETH

1877-1882

The records of the Court were edited under Elizabeth's supervision. It was her duty to see that the Court's business was conducted in the most efficient manner possible. She was also responsible for the preparation of the Court's reports and for the maintenance of the Court's files. Her work was characterized by a high degree of accuracy and thoroughness. She was a devoted and efficient worker, and her contributions to the Court were of great value.

JAMES I., CHARLES I.


1566—1625. 1600—1649.



SOON after the accession of James I., the "Inventory of the Jewels in the Tower of London," March 22, 1605, thus describes the "Mirror of Great Britain," a famous crown jewel. "A greate and ryche jewell of golde, called the 'Myrror of Greate Brytayne,' con- teyninge one verie fayre table dyamonde, one verie fayre table rubye, twoe other lardge dyamondes, cut lozengewyse, the one of them called the 'Stone of the letter H. of Scotlande,' garnyshed wyth smalle dyamondes, twoe rounde perles, fixed, and one fayre dyamonde, cutt in fawcettis, bought of Sauncey."—*Inventories of the Treasury of the Exchequer*, vol. ii., p. 305. The gem remained in the possession of the English Crown during the reign of Charles I. and possibly later.

CARDINAL MAZARIN.

1602—1661.

HE diamond was acquired by Cardinal Mazarin in 1658, and it proved the most important specimen of that famous collection of diamonds known as "The Mazarins." It may be mentioned that to Cardinal Mazarin is attributed the invention of the perfect form of the brilliant, and that he had twelve large diamonds of the French Crown cut into this shape, which has ever since been acknowledged the best possible form for exhibiting the beautiful optical properties of the stone.

CARDINAL MAZARIN

1602-1661

The Cardinal de Mazarin, the first of the great
ministers of France, was born in 1602 at
Paris. He was a member of the Academy of
the Sciences, and was one of the founders
of the French Academy. He was a great
statesman, and his policy was to strengthen
the power of France. He was a great
diplomat, and his policy was to bring
about a general peace in Europe. He was
a great administrator, and his policy was
to improve the government of France. He
was a great writer, and his policy was to
bring about a general peace in Europe.

QUEEN HENRIETTA MARIA.

1609—1669.



THE Dowager Queen, Henrietta Maria, possessed it, for Robert de Berquem in his work "Les Merveilles des Indes," 1669, speaking of diamonds, says: "There are some of extraordinary size and perfection. The present queen of England has the one brought by the late M. de Sancy from his Embassy in the Levant." It is said that the queen, while in exile, presented the diamond to Somerset, Earl of Worcester, as appears from the following extract from a letter of the Queen Dowager: "We, Henrietta Maria, of Bourbon, Queen of Great Britain, have by command of our much honoured lord and master, the King, caused to be handed to our dear and well-beloved cousin, Edward Somerset, Count and Earl of Worcester, a ruby necklace, containing ten large rubies and 160 pearls set and strung together in gold."

QUEEN HENRIETTA MARIA

1609-1669

The English Queen Henrietta Maria, consort of King Charles I, was born in France in 1609. She was the daughter of Louis XIII and Anne of Austria. She was educated in the French court and was a devout Catholic. She married Charles I in 1625. Her reign was marked by the English Civil War and the execution of her husband in 1649. She fled to France and spent the remainder of her life there. She was a patron of the arts and a devout Catholic. She was executed by guillotine in 1659.

LOUIS XIV.

1638—1715.



LOUIS XIV. purchased the Sancy for £25,000 about 1695.

PLATE XIV

1891-1892

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CHICAGO

LOUIS XV.

1710—1774.



FROM the "Grande Monarque" the "Sancy" passed to his successor Louis XV., who wore it as a hat ornament at his coronation. It also appears among the French Crown jewels in the Inventory of 1791, but was stolen the following year with other valuables at the robbery of the Garde Meuble.

LOUIS XV

1710-1774

LOUIS XV, the "Loving King", reigned in France from 1715 to 1774. He was the grandson of Louis XIV and the son of Louis, the Duke of Burgundy, and Maria Leszcynska, Queen of France. His reign was marked by the Seven Years' War (1756-1763) and the beginning of the French Revolution (1789). He was known for his patronage of the arts and his efforts to reform the French government.

MARIE LECKZINSKA.

1703—1768.



HE Queen of Louis XV. had a necklace mounted in 1753 to which the Sancy was attached as a pendant, and she wore this ornament at all court ceremonies during the remainder of her life.

MARIE LEONIEWSKA

1873-1944

Marie Leoniewska was born in 1873 in Poland. She was a pianist and a composer. She was married to a doctor and she had two children. She died in 1944 in New York City.

MARIE ANTOINETTE.

1755—1793.



HE unfortunate Marie Antoinette, on becoming Dauphine of France, succeeded to this necklace and wore it till she became Queen. About 1789 the Sancy was taken from this necklace, and Marie Antoinette then wore it mounted as a brooch.

MARIE ANTOINETTE

THE HISTORY OF THE REIGN OF
MADAME ANTOINETTE
BY MRS. H. G. W. ...

CHARLES IV.

1748—1819.



It is said that the "Sancy" came into the possession of the widow of Charles IV. of Spain, who gave it to the notorious Prince of Peace Godoi.

CHARLES IV

1792-1808

It is not the only one of the kind
to which the French nation has been
subjected.

GODOI, PRINCE DE LA PAIX.

1767—1851.



AFTER forming a part of the treasure of Charles IV., the Sancy was given to Godoi, Prince de la Paix, whose son offered it for sale to Louis XVIII. in 1822, but the King declined the purchase, and he afterwards, in 1828, sold it to Prince Demidoff for 600,000 francs.


GODOL PRINCE DE LA PAIX

1797-1817

The following is a list of the names of the
persons who were given the name of
Godol Prince de la Paix in the
course of the reign of Louis XVI.
The names are given in the order
in which they were given.

PRINCE DEMIDOFF.

1798—1840.

 PRINCE DEMIDOFF purchased the "Sancy" about 1828 from a French merchant. M. Levrat, Director of the Society of Mines and Forges of the Grisons, Switzerland, agreed to buy the gem for £24,000, but a dispute having arisen as to its value, led to the celebrated trial between Prince Demidoff and M. Levrat, judgment being given in favour of the former on June 1, 1832.


PRINCE DEMIDOFF

1795-1845

PRINCE DEMIDOFF, Count de Demidoff, born 1795, died 1845. He was a Russian general and statesman. He was the son of a Russian general and a French noblewoman. He was married to a French noblewoman. He was a member of the Russian nobility. He was a member of the Russian nobility. He was a member of the Russian nobility.

SIR JAMSETJEE JEEJEEBHOY.

1783—1859.

 SIR JAMSETJEE JEEJEEBHOY purchased the "Sancy" from the Demidoff family in February, 1865. Two years later it was exhibited in the case of MM. Bapst at the Paris Universal Exhibition. In the account of the Prince of Wales' Tour in India the Maharajah of Puttiali is said to have worn the "Great Sancy" as a pendant at the Grand Durbar.

SIR JAMSETTEE JEJEEBHAI

1851-1852

THE JAMSETTEE JEJEEBHAI TRUST was established in the year 1851 for the purpose of promoting the education of the poor in the city of Bombay. The trust has since that time been engaged in various educational and charitable works, and has been successful in raising a large amount of money for the benefit of the community. The trust is now managed by a committee of trustees, and its income is applied to the support of several schools and colleges in Bombay. The trust is a valuable institution, and its work is highly appreciated by the public.

MARY ASTOR.



HIS last named owner being dead, this most famous jewel—the eighth in order of weight, but perhaps of all the most historic—came again into the market in 1892, and was purchased for his wife by the Honourable William Waldorf Astor (great grandson of John Jacob Astor). Mr. Astor was United States Minister to Italy from 1882-1885, and served a term in the New York State Senate. He married, June 6, 1878, Mary, daughter of James W. Paul, Esq., of Philadelphia, U.S.A.

ASTORIA

Faint, illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.

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