



KULSEN & HENNIG

Nature's Brilliant Colours

Newsletter No. 15

06/2013

All about Natural Coloured Diamonds

The *Princie Diamond*

Characteristics and Particularities

The *Princie Diamond* is one of the most fabulous natural coloured diamonds ever discovered in the Golconda diamond mines. In November 2009, the Gemmological Institute of America (GIA) studied this 34.65 ct, cushion cut diamond and awarded the stone the rare and exceptional Fancy Intense Pink colour grading and a VS2 clarity grading.



Additionally, the GIA determined that the stone belonged to the IIa type of diamonds. That type of diamond presents the highest degree of chemical purity and possesses extraordinary brilliance.

Another particularity of these diamonds is that they reveal a light, orangey-red fluorescence when exposed to ultraviolet light. This rare phenomenon is characteristic of diamonds coming from the Golconda mines.

History and Origin

For over three hundred years, this valuable pink diamond belonged to the Nizam of Hyderabad dynasty that ruled over one of the richest principalities of the Mughal Empire. The Nizam of Hyderabad sovereigns also ruled over the legendary Golconda mines, today located in the state of Andhra Pradesh in southern India.

There, the diamonds were mined, cut and also traded. In the 19th century, the Nizam of Hyderabad were still the only producers of diamonds in the world.

The reserves of these mines have long since been depleted and only the vestiges still remain to bear witness to their former grandeur.



The vestiges of Golconda today



KULSEN & HENNIG

Nature's Brilliant Colours

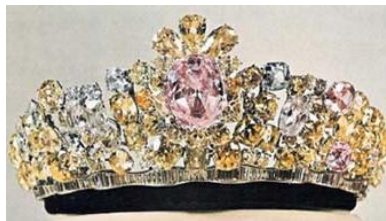
Newsletter No. 15

06/2013

The Golconda mines are known for their particularly beautiful natural coloured diamonds which possess unusual colour and remarkable transparency. The three largest pink diamonds, the *Darya-i Nur*, the *Nur-ul-Ain* and the *Princie Diamond* all come from these mines.



Darya-i-Nur (186.00 ct)
Light Pink

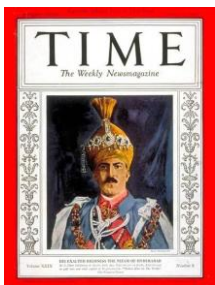


Nur-ul-Ain (60.00 ct)
Light Pink



Princie Diamond (34.65 ct)
Fancy Intense Pink

According to Indian tradition, the Nizam had pre-emption rights for the most beautiful diamonds from the Golconda mine. It was believed at the time that a stone's interior energy was transmitted to its owner.



Mir Osman Ali Khan
Time Magazine 1937

This is how the *Princie Diamond* passed from one generation to another until it reached the last of the Nizam of Hyderabad, Mir Oman Ali Khan, who was named the "richest man in the world" in 1937 by Time Magazine. His fortune was mainly based on centuries of diamond trading.

Mir Osman Ali Khan put the diamond up for sale in 1960 and it appeared as the *Property of a Gentleman* in a Sotheby's auction. Van Cleef & Arpels purchased the stone for GBP 46 000, the equivalent of USD 1 300 000 today... a rather modest price compared to the USD 39 323 750 reached in the Christie's auction in April 2013!

The *Princie Diamond* was named in honor of the Prince of Baroda, 14 at the time and present with his mother Maharani Sita Devi at the party given by Pierre Arpels in Paris to celebrate his new acquisition.