



KULSEN & HENNIG

Nature's Brilliant Colours

Newsletter No. 11

06/2012

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KULSEN & HENNIG News

The Year of the Dragon

Dear Customers, Readers and Friends,

In Chinese astrology, 2012 is the Year of the Dragon! For Asian cultures, the dragon is an important good-luck charm – there is optimism in the air as we roll up our sleeves and take on new projects.

This year, KULSEN & HENNIG will be moving into its new offices in Berlin.

In this edition of our newsletter, we will take an entertaining little excursion into Chinese astrology and discover jewellery inspired by powerful dragons. Find out about the discovery of a very rare diamond and learn how secondary colours can affect the price of diamonds. In addition, we'll take a closer look at the travels of Jean-Baptiste Tavernier, the famous diamond expert who travelled throughout India during the 17th century. Then, we'll continue our series on diamond cuts and bring you, this time, an overview of the round brilliant cut's historical development.

We hope that the articles in this new edition will be a source of inspiration for you!

Your KULSEN & HENNIG Team

P.S If you can spare 3 minutes and 34 seconds, take a look on the Internet at this film that we found most impressive: odyssee.cartier.us



From Our Collection: A Pair of Pear Shaped 1.43 ct Fancy Light Yellow

This pair of pear shaped, pale yellow diamonds would be perfect for earrings. If these stones were to be combined with pearls, the result would definitely be an exceptional piece of jewellery. The pair could also enhance a solitaire stone beautifully.

Both stones have a VVS clarity grading; information concerning their weight is provided below:

0.71 ct. 7,02 x 4,83 x 3,36 mm VVS Fancy Light Yellow
0.72 ct. 6,89 x 4,76 x 3,35 mm VVS Fancy Light Yellow

If you are interested in these stones, please contact us at:

E-mail: info@kulsen-hennig.com
Telephone: +49 (0)30 400 55 93 0



All about Natural Coloured Diamonds

Argyle Pink Jubilee

On February 21, 2012, Rio Tinto, owner and operator of the [Argyle Diamond Mine](#) in Western Australia, announced the discovery of the biggest rough pink diamond ever to have been mined in Australia. The rough stone, which weighs 12.76 ct, was found in the open pit mine of the Argyle Diamond Mine in the East Kimberly region of Western Australia. The stone was baptised *Argyle Pink Jubilee* in honour of Queen Elisabeth II's Diamond Jubilee.

The stone's exceptional colour has been described as Light Pink, similar to the colour of the *Williamson Pink* diamond that Queen Elisabeth II received as a wedding present and wore set in a brooch during her coronation ceremony.

According to Josephine Johnson, manager of [Argyle Pink Diamonds](#), it took 26 years of mining to find such an exceptional stone and it is doubtful that another stone of the same size and quality will ever be found again.

After two months of careful evaluation and planning, the master stone cutter Richard How Kim Kam, a longtime Argyle employee, began to cut and polish the *Argyle Pink Jubilee* in Perth.

Once it has been graded, the *Argyle Pink Jubilee* will begin a journey around the world to be shown to select audiences. Then, this autumn, it will be sold at the legendary [Argyle Pink Diamond Tender](#). As for the stone's value, we can only speculate. According to Rio Tinto, extremely high quality pink diamonds can attain 1 million USD per carat.

We are all very excited to know what shape has been chosen for this stone and will of course keep you posted!



J. B. Tavernier (1605-1689) - Traveller and Diamond Expert

The French traveller and diamond merchant Jean Baptiste Tavernier made six trips to Persia and India between 1630 and 1668. He brought large quantities of extremely valuable diamonds, precious stones and jewellery back with him.

Even at the court of Versailles, whose splendour and luxury were unparalleled in Europe, no one had ever seen anything like it. Tavernier sold some of the most valuable diamonds to King Louis XIV.

Between 1676 and 1679, Tavernier published his travel reports under the title of *Jean-Baptiste Tavernier's Six Voyages to Turkey, Persia and India*.



[Read more...](#)

The Year of the Dragon 2012 - Jewellery for the Year of the Dragon

In Chinese astrology, the Dragon represents good luck and was the symbol of the Chinese Imperial family; the emperor even sat on the Dragon throne. Through the emperor's example, the entire world was thought to be positively influenced by the Confucian ideal.

This time, in our search for unusual creations, we were inspired by the Year of the Dragon. We have encountered fantastic "diamond dragons" with which certain jewellery designers pay tribute to this fabulous good-luck charm. Natural Fancy Coloured Diamonds add a special something to each piece.



[Read more...](#)

The Impact of Secondary Colours on the Price of Diamonds

The overall appearance of most Fancy Natural Coloured Diamonds is determined by the combination of several colours.

Secondary colour modifiers or secondary colours can affect the price of a diamond significantly. Experienced buyers know how to use these colour modifiers.



[Read more...](#)

Gemmology Corner

The Brilliant Cut: Chapter 1 – The Historical Development

The round brilliant cut is the most popular and best known diamond cut. Between Natural Coloured Diamonds and the round brilliant cut, however, there is a sort of "love-hate" relationship. The two contradict each other, with, on the one hand, the classic brilliant cut designed to show as little colour as possible, and, on the other hand, Natural Coloured Diamonds showing off as much of their colour as possible.



With our newsletters, you will have an opportunity to learn more about the development of this classic cut. In this new issue, we will take a look at the origins of diamond cutting that led to the round brilliant cut.

[Read more...](#)

You will receive our next newsletter in autumn 2012.

Earlier editions of our newsletter may be found in our [newsletter-archive](#).

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All about Natural Coloured Diamonds

Jean Baptiste Tavernier (1605-1689)

Traveller and Diamond Expert

The French traveller and diamond merchant Jean Baptiste Tavernier was born in Paris in 1605, the son of a Protestant Flemish cartographer. Surrounded by geographical maps of distant lands, Tavernier developed a desire to travel at an early age.

Thus, Tavernier made six trips to Persia and India between 1630-1668, sponsored by Cardinal Mazarin and King Louis XIV. In Paris, between 1676 and 1679, Tavernier published an account of his experiences and adventures under the title of *Les Six Voyages de Jean Baptiste Tavernier en Turquie, en Perse et aux Indes* (Jean-Baptiste Tavernier's Six Voyages to Turkey, Persia and India).

Tavernier, a man who possessed alert intelligence and an accurate sense of observation, enjoyed an excellent reputation as a diamond merchant and expert both in his homeland and among the Oriental princes of his time. Tavernier's reports provide information on travel routes, the origins of precious goods, the practices and participants involved in the gem trade in India and Europe, the characteristics of the oriental trade, and, especially, information about the variety of precious stones.

At the age of 22, he had travelled much of Europe and experienced the Thirty Years' War, serving under Colonel Hans Brenner. A half-year's stay in the household of the Viceroy of Hungary, Brenner's uncle, and brief contact in 1629 with the Duke of Rethel (France), and his father, the Duke of Nevers (France), Prince of Mantua (Italy), familiarized Tavernier with court life; these experiences would be invaluable to him in later years. One of Tavernier's first military experiences occurred in 1629 during the defence of Mantua in 1629 when he served under Colonel Walter Butler.

The First Voyage (1630-1633)

In 1630, Tavernier had seen Switzerland, Germany, Poland, Hungary, France, England and the Netherlands and was now eager to travel to the Orient. He left Colonel Butler and joined two French priests on a mission to the East, reaching Constantinople in 1631. Eleven months later, he traveled through Tokat and Erzurum (Turkey) and Yerevan (Armenia) to Persia. The farthest point of the trip was Isfahan (Iran). His return journey took him to Baghdad (Iraq), Aleppo (Syria), Alexandretta (southern Turkey), Malta and Italy. He reached Paris in 1633.



Jean Baptiste Tavernier (1605-1689).



J.B. Tavernier, portrait by Nicolas de Largillière; Herzog Anton Ulrich-Museum, Braunschweig.



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Map of the "Gani Coulour" region in southeast India from 1676 to 1679, according to Tavernier. The dotted lines show his route. Photo: National Library.

The Second (1638–1643) and Third (1643–1649) Voyages

In September 1638, Tavernier left on his second journey that took him from Aleppo to Persia and from there to Agra and Golconda in India. His visits to the court of the Grand Mogul and the diamond mines laid the foundations for Tavernier's later success as a senior trader dealing in valuable jewels and precious goods.

His third voyage (1643-1649) led Tavernier to Java (Indonesia). Little is known about the subsequent trips taken between 1651 and 1668, but they went no further than India.

17th Century Diamond Trade in India

The discovery of sea routes to India in the 16th and 17th centuries helped develop relations between Europe and the subcontinent. Information entered Europe through the Portuguese crown servants, merchants and missionaries. The number of European travellers to India increased steadily and their travel accounts corrected, expanded and put into concrete terms what was then known about India.

Whereas Jehan de Mandeville's travel accounts (1357-1371) emphasized the unimaginable riches of India, Duarte Barbosa, agent of the Portuguese crown in Cannanore (South India), describes, as early as 1510, specific sites where precious stones, diamonds and pearls were to be found as well as cities with thriving gem trades.

Many merchants travelled by sea under the protection of large trading companies such as the Dutch Verenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie or the English East India Company. Tavernier, however, as an independent businessman, chose to travel by the land and water ways that led to the Mediterranean by way of Lahore (Pakistan) and Kandahar (Afghanistan) or via the Persian Gulf to Aleppo.

In his wake, he led servants and interpreters, as well as agents who scouted the jewel markets for him. In the East, he joined the trade caravans travelling in the direction of Persia and India. Once in India, Tavernier travelled with various companions, perhaps a fellow French jeweller, for example, in the customary manner, using carriages, sedan chairs and baggage carts.



Copperplate engraving on frontispiece: Tavernier trading diamonds with the natives.



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Gemstone Markets and Diamond Mines

The main attractions for European traders in India were the numerous jewellery and gemstone markets in cities such as Patna in the state of Bihar and Dhaka (Dacca), the capital of Bangladesh. Tavernier reported that more than 2 000 people were employed in jewellery production. During his trip through the Ganges Plains (1665-1666), he himself spent more than 11 000 rupees, probably for jewels and precious stones. In the 17th century, and in addition to the large jewellery markets, it was also possible to buy diamonds directly at the mining sites.



Deposits and trade centres in India. Drawing: Burns Graphics, London; the three mines visited by Tavernier are shown.

Tavernier was not, as he believed himself to be, the first European to visit the Indian mines; he was, however, the only one who gave detailed descriptions of the diamond sites. He gave a detailed account of the diamond mines of Ramulconeta (Raolconda) and Quolure (Gani Colour) in the south of the subcontinent and of Soumelpour in the Northeast. At that time, these mines were owned by the ruler of Golconda, Abdullah Shah Kuthb, and that of Bijapur, Ali Adil Shah.

They awarded licenses for the mining of diamonds to local dealers who, in exchange, had to pay a daily fee and a tax on all profits. The rough or polished stones were offered for sale to gem dealers and jewellers on-site.

Tavernier provides vivid descriptions of the gem trade with foreign traders. One evening, for example, an Indian businessman came to see him in his lodgings. After the men had become acquainted, the dealer offered Tavernier a set of ruby rings. Although Tavernier felt the stones were too small, he still bought one of the rings in the hope that he might later be offered more valuable stones.

He also expressed an interest in larger specimens. When the two men next met, the diamond dealer took off his turban, let his hair down, and pulled out a small cloth in which he had wrapped a 48.50 ct diamond. He gave the diamond to Tavernier to examine; after examining the diamond closely, Tavernier bought it the following day.

So, actual trading was held in private. Tavernier first had to demonstrate his professional skill with the rubies before he was offered the precious diamond. This episode also shows how important contact with Indian traders was for European traders if they wished to buy diamonds in India.



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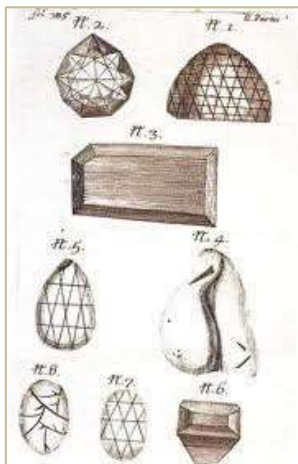
At the Court of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb

Tavernier traded not only diamonds in India but also valuable exported luxury goods from Europe. He paved his way to the highest ruling circles of India by first giving gifts of the finest materials and craftsmanship.

He maintained particularly close trade relations with the provincial governor of the Mogul empire in Gujarat and later in Bengal, Shaista Khan, as well as with the reigning ruler of the empire, Muhammad Aurangzeb Alamgir (1618-1707).



Muhammad Aurangzeb Alamgir (1618-1707).



Engraving from *The Six Voyages...*
Photo: H. Josse, Paris.
No. 1 Great Mogul / No. 2 Florentine
No. 3 Great Table

In 1665, Tavernier was allowed the honour of admiring the jewels of the Grand Mogul. He sketched and described the presented pieces in a meticulous manner. Among them were the Great Mogul, a 280 carat diamond, and the Great Table, from which the *Darya-i-Nur* and the *Nur-ul-Ain* were probably cut.

The Tavernier Blue

Tavernier also sold stones in India to, for example, employees of the Verenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie, who "improved" their salaries by smuggling diamonds. He also brought home large numbers of precious diamonds, gems and jewellery from his journeys, including twenty large diamonds weighing between 30 and 50 carats.

Even at the court of Versailles, whose splendour and luxury were unparalleled in Europe, no one had ever seen anything like it.

Among them was the unique diamond, called the *Tavernier Blue*, now known as the *Hope Diamond*. In 1669, Tavernier sold this exceptional diamond to King Louis XIV, for 220,000 pounds, which at that time corresponded in value to 147 kg of gold. Contrary to legend, however, Tavernier did not steal the stone from a statue of the goddess Sita-Rama, but found it in a tributary of the Coleroon, in south-eastern India.



Engraving of the 20 diamonds Tavernier sold to Louis XIV in 1669. National Library of Paris, Photo: Hubert Josse, Paris.

Sources:

Der Diamant. Mythos, Magie und Wirklichkeit. Karl Müller Verlag, Erlangen 1991.

Kostbare Güter globaler Herkunft: der Juwelenhandel zwischen Indien und Europa. Kim Siebenhüner, 7. Tagung der AG Frühe Neuzeit, Greifswald, 20.-22. September 2007.



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Jewellery for the Year of the Dragon

Western and Asian Astrology

While western astrology deals primarily with the interpretation of the stars, in China, geomancy, or "the prophecy of the earth", also plays a major role.

The Chinese New Year is based on the traditional Chinese calendar and falls between 20 January and 21 February. It begins with the new moon of the first month of the new year.

In China, each new year is assigned an animal. There are a total of twelve zodiac signs that recur every twelve years. This year began on 23 January and is placed under the sign of the Dragon whereas last year was placed under the sign of the Rabbit.



The Dragon

The dragon is known to us as a snake-like, winged creature from myths, fairy tales and epic adventures. In Eastern and Western creation myths, the dragon symbolizes chaos and is the monster enemy of God and man. It holds back the fruitful water and threatens to devour the sun and moon.

A hero or god must fight and kill the dragon so that the world may exist or continue to exist. In the New Testament, Saint Micheal the Archangel defeats Satan, in the form of a dragon, and casts him down from heaven to Earth.

The East Asian dragon, however, is an ambivalent creature with mostly positive characteristics. It brings rain and good fortune and symbolizes both fertility and imperial power.

In the fantasy version, the dragon is often perceived as a sort of demon and attributed size, intelligence and the gift of magic. The dark aesthetics of fantasy images are also part of our fascination for dragons – beasts that are both terrible and beautiful, noble and terrifying, all at the same time.



A Romantic Dragon Ring
Dier JOAILLERIE
Opals, diamonds and other precious



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Dragon Jewellery

Dragon jewellery is found in great variety. We have noticed, in particular, the silver jewellery worn by followers of the Goth trend, including pendants, rings, earrings and accessories in the shape of dragons.



Dragon Head Bracelet
John Hardy
Sterling silver



Dragon Pendant
Thomas Sabo
Black Onyx,
Zircons, enamel



Celestial Dragon Pendant
Anne Stokes Artistry
Sterling silver

The interpretation of the dragon in high-end jewellery is particularly fascinating!



Dragon brooch
Wallace Chan
Old jade, diamonds, rubies
and other precious stones



"Glayane" Dragon Earring
Elise Dray
White gold, white and black
diamonds



Dragon brooch
Bucellatti
Rubies, white and yellow
diamonds, white and yellow golds,
baroque pearls

What Chinese zodiac sign are you?

Sources:

www.chinaseite.de / www.carreraycarrera.com / www.chinesisches-horoskop.de
Bijoux, joaillerie et horlogerie. Dreams Magazine No. 59, Mars/Avril/Mai 2012.



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The 12 signs of the Chinese Zodiac

龍

1916 · 1928 · 1940 · 1952 · 1964 · 1976 · 1988 · 2000 · 2012 · 2024

The Dragon – Successful. Those born in the year of the Dragon live long lives and are healthy and energetic. They are considered to be reliable, courageous and full of confidence. Dragons have strong wills and are passionate in all they do.

蛇

1917 · 1929 · 1941 · 1953 · 1965 · 1977 · 1989 · 2001

The Snake – Mysterious, Intelligent and Charismatic. Mysterious Snakes want to explore the smallest things in life – this is what makes them so wise, unfathomable and extremely charismatic. Their talent for psychology, their composure and their sense of humour make these deep thinkers particularly fascinating.

馬

1918 · 1930 · 1942 · 1954 · 1966 · 1978 · 1990 · 2002

The Horse – Adventurous and Freedom Loving. Pure energy and always on the move, the soul and spirit of the impetuous Horse remain free-spirited and untamed. Thanks to their love for adventure, sharp mind and captivating nature, Horses are loved by all but are hard to keep up with.

羊

1919 · 1931 · 1943 · 1955 · 1967 · 1979 · 1991 · 2003

The Goat – A Good Soul. Art and harmony touch the heart of the creative, imaginative and graceful Goats, who look for beauty in all they encounter. Life rewards their gentle and loving nature and their trust and willingness to help others with happiness.

猴

1920 · 1932 · 1944 · 1956 · 1968 · 1980 · 1992 · 2004

The Monkey – Full of Inspiration. It is difficult to attain the level of ingenuity of Monkeys. Mentally and physically, they are always moving, searching for new challenges and their improvisational talent borders on magical. For them, nothing is impossible.

雞

1921 · 1933 · 1945 · 1957 · 1969 · 1981 · 1993 · 2005

The Rooster – Dedicated to Perfection. Shimmering, proud and extravagant, the Rooster is a bird of paradise that loves to be the centre of attention. But these entertaining and upright characters are also amazingly well-organised as they strive for perfect order in everything they do.



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狗

1922 · 1934 · 1946 · 1958 · 1970 · 1982 · 1994 · 2006

The Dog – A Heart of Gold. Their true and noble hearts beat for equality and justice. Dogs are honourable and chivalrous. Idealistic, they defend the weak and the oppressed and impress with their modest, courteous charm.

豬

1923 · 1935 · 1947 · 1959 · 1971 · 1983 · 1995 · 2007

The Pig – The Lucky One! Fun-loving pigs always find something to celebrate. Their motto is "live and let live". Pigs represent good luck and prosperity. Their secret is to give all they have and receive twice as much in return – not surprising, then, that they are so joyful!

鼠

1912 · 1924 · 1936 · 1948 · 1960 · 1972 · 1984 · 1996 · 2008

The Rat – Charming Intelligence with a Bite. The sociable and versatile Rat makes friends easily. Whether ambitious, spiritual or playful, these characters are full of surprises. When they are around, one never gets bored!

牛

1913 · 1925 · 1937 · 1949 · 1961 · 1973 · 1985 · 1997 · 2009

The Ox – The Strong Silent Type. This quiet loner is nobody's fool. He is strong-minded, cautious, and absolutely down to earth. He achieves his objectives thanks to unflinching determination. The Ox is as solid as a rock!

虎

1914 · 1926 · 1938 · 1950 · 1962 · 1974 · 1986 · 1998 · 2010

The Tiger – Impulsive, Wild and Passionate. The Tiger loves risk and lives according to his own rules. The world is a stage and life is an exciting game. When others may have reached their limits, the Tiger thinks things have just gotten interesting!

兔

1915 · 1927 · 1939 · 1951 · 1963 · 1975 · 1987 · 1999 · 2011

The Rabbit – The Gentle Art of Living. Harmony and inner peace are his ideal and his sensitive nature seems to perceive the reality behind reality. The rabbit is beyond disputes and superficiality. His mission is to bring beauty to the world.



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All about Natural Coloured Diamonds

The Impact of Secondary Colours on the Price of Diamonds

Colour Grading Systems

The internationally recognized colour grading systems from GIA (Gemological Institute of America) and IGI (International Gemological Institute) consider three main factors:

Hue	Hue	the main body colour and any modifiers
Tone	Colour depth	the lightness or darkness of the colour
Saturation	Saturation	the strength or intensity of colour

Carat Weight	0.34 carat
Color	
Origin	NATURAL
Grade	FANCY DEEP
.....	BROWNISH ORANGY PINK
Distribution	Even
Clarity Grade	VVS1

On a GIA certificate, the colour modifiers are denoted before the main body colour. Thus, for example, a diamond with the colour name Brownish Orangy Pink will have brown and orange modifiers, with a little more orange than brown.

Secondary colours can make Fancy Natural Coloured Diamonds unique and interesting.

Colour and Price

The price of a Fancy Natural Coloured Diamond depends largely on the appearance of its overall colour.

Each Fancy Natural Coloured Diamond is unique. Some stones, however, have such distinctive colour and saturation of colour that their price is enhanced.

The colour and saturation of colour are the most important factors in determining the price of Fancy Natural Coloured Diamonds. Other factors such as tone, weight, cut and purity also play a role.

Generally, diamonds of more common colours like grey, brown and yellow will cost less than those of colours that occur less frequently such as pink, blue, green, purple, orange, or, the very the rarest colour of all, red.

This is also true for secondary colours, so that when a relatively common main colour is combined with a rare secondary colour, the price of the diamond increases. On the other hand, however, the price decreases when a rare diamond colour is combined with a frequently occurring secondary colour.



Fancy Grey



Fancy Deep Brownish Orange



Fancy Vivid Green Yellow



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Secondary colours, then, can significantly lower the price of a diamond, all other things being equal. For example, a one carat radiant cut Fancy Brownish Pink diamond will cost less than a radiant cut Fancy Pink diamond of the same weight.

Some other examples clearly show to what extent secondary colours influence the price of Fancy Natural Coloured Diamonds when compared to a pure colour:

Brown/Brownish Yellow	less expensive than a pure yellow
Green/Greenish Yellow	more expensive than a pure yellow
Greyish Blue	less expensive than a pure blue
Greenish Blue	more expensive than a pure blue
Brown/Brownish Pink	less expensive than a pure pink
Orange/Orangy Pink	less expensive than a pure pink
Purple/Purplish Pink	more or same expensive as a pure pink



Fancy Intense
Bluish Green

Because of the many possible combinations of primary and secondary colours and colour saturation, there is no set price list for Fancy Natural Coloured Diamonds.

If a Fancy Natural Coloured Diamond is chosen for a piece of jewellery, the most important factor to consider is the person who will be enjoying the stone; the colour must suit and, above all, please that special someone.

If, however, a Fancy Natural Coloured Diamond is bought for investment purposes, it is important to ensure the best possible resale value. We believe that diamonds in pure colours or those with value-adding secondary colours sell best for resale. Whether diamonds are actually a good investment, however, remains debatable. We, therefore, recommend extreme caution.



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Gemmology Corner

The Brilliant Cut – Chapter 1: The Historical Development

The Development of the Brilliant Cut

The word "brilliant" comes from the French word "brilliant", which means bright or radiant. The word appears as early as the 17th century on an inventory list for the jewellery of Mary II, eldest daughter of James II of England.

Today, the term is limited to the modern round brilliant cut with 57 facets which was only developed in the 20th century. This cut did not result from a single person's efforts, however, but rather from hundreds of years of experimentation, modifications and improvements. Of course, changing fashions and trends also played an important role in the development of this cut.

In the Beginning

Originally, cuts followed the octahedron shape of the crystals. Until around 1300, the only diamonds known in Europe were crystals in their natural state, in other words rough diamonds. In ancient times and even during the Renaissance period, these precious gemstones were believed to possess magical powers. It was feared that a diamond would lose its power if the original shape were to be changed (Adamas - the Invincible).



Octahedron

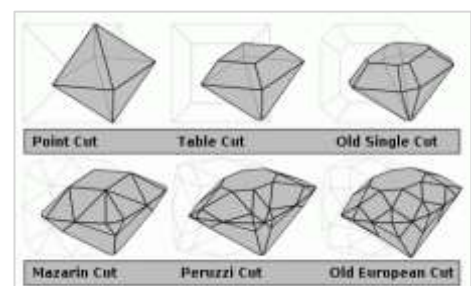
Improving the Crystal's Shape

Because of these fears, the processing of a rough diamond was for a long time preceded by certain rituals. For example, a blade that was to be used to split, or cleave, a diamond would first be immersed in the blood of a goat in order to "absorb" the strength necessary to conquer the diamond.

Thus, the first attempt to modify the shape of a diamond was cleaving. For a long time, the objective was only to adjust the natural shape and remove any unwanted parts. Once the finished surfaces were clear and free of imperfections, they could be used for jewellery in the form of crosses, for example. Over the years, polishing of the final surfaces developed, bringing additional sophistication to the stones. The gemstones were polished and made more transparent with wood, copper or even leather files coated with diamond powder.

The Cutting Process

The illustration shows the development in diamond cuts.





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Point Cut

Rough stones were still left in their original form, but polished to highlight the satin finish of the diamond. Only the optical effect of the stone was improved.

Table Cut

The original table cut is the forerunner of today's popular diamond cuts. By cleaving or polishing the octahedron point, one obtained an additional surface on the upper side of the diamond, the table, and a smaller one on the bottom of the diamond, the culet. The result was the so-called square cut or table cut. One of the most famous ancient Table Cut diamonds is the *Shah Jahan Table Cut* (mid-17th century). It weighs 56.71 carats and possesses a delicate rosé color.

Old Single Cut

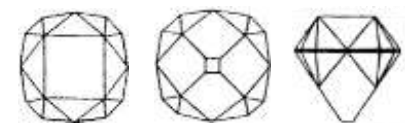
Thanks to the invention of the scaif, or polishing wheel, in the mid-15th century by Lodewyk van Berken, a gem cutter in Antwerp, it became possible to create additional facets and the first corner facets emerged. The top and bottom of the stone now had 8 +1 (table and culet) facets each, through which light could be reflected. Unfortunately, there are only a few remaining diamonds cut in this manner as they were all recut over time in order to improve their value and brilliance.



Diamond cutting in the 18th Century.
The first worker rubbed two diamonds against each other, the second sprinkled the polishing wheel with diamond powder soaked in oil, and the third turned the wheel of the scaif.

Mazarin Cut or Double Cut

The Mazarin Cut is often considered as the first precursor of the modern brilliant cut. It has 16 + 1 facets on the crown of the stone, 16 +1 facets on the pavillion, and the girdle is already slightly rounded. Compared to its predecessor, the single cut, the number of facets has been doubled.



Mazarin Cut

The development of the Mazarin Cut began in the mid-17th century at the instigation of Cardinal Jules Mazarin, who specifically ordered such a cut. The Mazarin Cut is not to be confused with the "Mazarin Diamonds", a collection of 18 diamonds that the Cardinal Mazarin collected during his lifetime and bequeathed to Louis XIV upon his death. Interestingly, none of the 18 stones bear the Mazarin Cut.

Peruzzi Cut or Triple Cut

At the end of the 17th century, the Venetian diamond cutter Vincent Peruzzi refined the Mazarin Cut, thus creating a new cut that would come to be named for him, the Peruzzi Cut. This cut possesses the same number of facets and similar proportions to those of the later brilliant cut - namely 32 +1 facets on the crown of the diamond and 24 + 1 facets on the pavillion. Once again, then, the number of facets has increased when compared to the cut's predecessor, the Mazarin Cut. Stones cut in this manner are also referred to as Old Mine Cuts or Cushion Cuts.



Peruzzi Cut



KULSEN & HENNIG

Nature's Brilliant Colours

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Old European Cut

The Old European Cut is considered to be the immediate precursor of the modern round brilliant cut. It became popular in the late 18th century. Around 1780, the first diamond deposits in Kimberley (South Africa) were discovered. An incredible diamond rush began and the supply of diamonds grew to such an extent that much of the European population could now purchase diamonds. In earlier centuries, diamonds had been reserved for the ruling elite and a rather small portion of the aristocratic classes.

The Old European Cut, like the modern round brilliant, also presents 32 facets and a table on the crown of the diamond, and, on the pavilion, 24 facets as well as a flat culet, which, in the modern round brilliant cut, is very small or has been entirely eliminated.

Compared to modern brilliant cut diamonds, Old European Cut diamonds have very high upper and lower parts, and a much smaller table. The stones seem a little thick and do not reflect the light perfectly. Even today, many diamond lovers prefer this appealing cut, specifically because it is not as perfect as the cool modern round brilliant cut.

Each of these stones has a personality and a charm of its own that has been lost little by little with the development of the perfect diamond cut.

Find out more about the development of the modern brilliant cut in our next issue.



Old European Cut



Brooch, richly trimmed with 105 Old European Cut diamonds. 1860 / 1880; Stahl / Hamburg Auction house

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