

Rare Diamonds:

The 101 Diamond

Diamond is an allotrope of Carbon. Carbon atoms bond with 4 other carbon atoms in an orderly manner called “Lattice”. As all 4 of its electrons are used in bonding, diamond is a poor conductor of electricity but very hard, in fact it is the hardest material known. It has many attractive properties when exposed to light and that makes diamond a sought after material as a component of jewelry. Cut and polish enhance its appearance.

Diamond as a material is rare, formed at a depth of about 150 kilometers below the Earth’s surface. To get 1 carat of rough diamond, 250 tons of rock needs to be excavated hence big size rough pieces are extremely rare and highly prized. The manufacturing process is also very unforgiving, the best yield which can be expected out of a carat size diamond is between 17% to 30% maximum, rest all is considered as wastage.

Keeping these factors in mind, GII, during this lockdown period, tries to bring forth interesting information about some “Famous Diamonds”. We will try and showcase information of some of the rare and expensive cut and polished diamonds with reference to their rough material size, their clarity, color and eventually the price they command because of the simple fact that they are one of a kind.

“The 101” is one such famous diamond. The 101 is called so because of its 101.73 carat weight. This type IIa, Pear shaped, “D” color, Flawless grade diamond was brought by Harry Winston from a Christie’s auction for \$26.7 million and then renamed as “The Winston Legacy” as an homage to their founder’s reputation as the “King of Diamonds”. This 234 carat rough diamond was found in Botswana and took about 21 months to get cut and faceted. The price was also a record for a “colorless” diamond at that time.

Bibliography- www.forbes.com, www.robreport.com, www.ritani.com