

Rare Diamonds:

The Oppenheimer Blue



Diamond is an allotrope of Carbon. Carbon atoms bond with 4 other carbon atoms in an orderly manner called “Lattice”. As all 4 of it’s electrons are used in bonding, diamond is a poor conductor of electricity but very hard, infact 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 it’s 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 Oppenheimer Blue is one such famous diamond. It is a 14.62 carat Vivid Blue diamond, which was initially owned by Sir Philip Oppenheimer, the former chairman of De Beers. It was found in the Premier diamond mine and was fashioned in to a Rectangular Emerald cut. It’s initial weight was 14.71 carats but it was recut to it’s current weight sometime in 1999.

It was sold at Christie’s auction May 2016 for \$50.6 million, the identity of the buyers is unknown.

Bibliography-www.ritani.com,www.Wikipedia.co