



The Great Star Of Africa : The Cullinan Diamond (I)

There are quite a few diamonds and gemstones that attracted attention of traders, connoisseurs, royal families and collectors for obvious reasons. Main attractions are beauty, special appearance, size, price and above all the pride of possession. GII is collecting a few informative but brief articles on such precious gemstones and Diamonds and the Great Star of Africa, also known as the Great St stone, is one

such rare diamond.

It was found by Captain Frederick Wells, superintendent of Premier Mine in Cullinan and named after Thomas Cullinan, the mine's chairman. It was cut into three segments by Asscher Brothers of Amsterdam, and eventually it was further divided into nine large stones and 96 smaller fragments. The Star of Africa Cullinan (I) diamond, is a pendeloque-cut brilliant weighing 530.2 carats with 74 facets. It is set at the top of the Sovereign's Sceptre with Cross which was redesigned in 1910.

Although brown Golden Jubilee Diamond (545.67-carat) surpassed it as the world's largest cut diamond of any colour in 1992, still it is the largest colourless cut diamond in the world. It has a few tiny cleavages and a small patch of graining. The 5.89 cm × 4.54 cm × 2.77 cm diamond is fitted with loops and can be taken out of its setting to be worn as a pendant suspended from Cullinan (II) to make a brooch.



The Great Star of Africa Cullinan I along with The Cullinan II and IV, Cullinan VII Delhi Dubar Necklace and Cullinan Pendant

The great star of Africa was examined in the 1980's by gemologists at the Tower of London and it was graded as 'D' colour, type IIa diamond and clarity check description stated it as a "potentially flawless." diamond. Altogether, the polished gems that once made up the Cullinan diamond are worth billions of dollars. The Great Star of Africa is estimated to have a value of around 400 million USD.

References :

1. Cullinan diamond -History and facts-Cullinan Diamond worth,
www.cullinan-diamond.com
2. Kenneth Scarratt., Russell Shor.(2006) THE CULLINAN DIAMOND CENTENNIAL: A HISTORY AND GEMOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF CULLINANS I AND II. GEMS & GEMOLOGY, Vol. 42, No. 2, pp. 120–132.