



## HOPE DIAMOND REPLICA

The 45.52 carat dark-blue stone now known as the "HOPE" now is the property of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. According to a weight and dimension study by H. Tillander (1975) the stone has evolved from two other famous BLUE diamonds the Travener Blue and the French Blue as indicated in the diagrams at the head of this article. In the process 110.5 ct "Travener" was reduced to 45.5 ct "Hope", but Tillander concluded that no other stones were created. Because of color similarity with the 13.75 carat Brunswick Blue Diamond some authorities had suggested both this stone and the "Hope" resulted from recutting of the 69.03 carat French Blue Diamond. However, the dimensions would not support this theory.

In the complex history there is little doubt the Travener Blue was recut to give the French Blue. Then the French Blue was stolen from the Garde Meuble (French Royal Treasury) in 1792 and was never recovered intact. The "Hope" first appeared in the London diamond market in 1830 where it cost Henry Philip Hope \$90,000 big money at that time.

After Hope's death in 1839 the heir (nephew Henry Thomas Hope) displayed the stone at the 1851 Crystal Palace Exposition. Eventually the stone now officially called the "Hope" was left to the Duke of Newcastle who was the grandson of Henry Thomas Hope. One condition of the gift was that he adopt the official name "Hope" (this made his name Henry Francis Pelham-Clinton Hope a very cumbersome name but worth the effort if the valuable diamond went with it)

Lord Hope married an American actress Mary Yohe. She had a paste model made of the big blue stone for a stage comeback, which proved unsuccessful and later in 1906 Lord Hope was forced to sell the gem in part payment of his debts.

Abdul Hamid II sultan of Turkey is supposed to have paid \$400,000 for the "Hope", but when he was threatened with revolution he returned it to Paris to be sold. In 1911, Pierre Cartier acquired the stone and resold it for \$154,000 to Edward B McLean, then owner of the Washington Post newspaper. Mrs McClean displayed the stone often and despite disaster legends about the "HOPE" including about a dozen violent deaths and disaster to two royal houses, she never considered the stone to be unlucky. Upon Mrs McClean's death in 1947, Harry Winston purchased the famous stone for \$179,920 and presented it to the Smithsonian Institution.

In this issue we present cutting instructions for a replica of the "Hope" and the "French Blue". Although the French Blue actually is supposed to have slightly curved sides we have approximated it with a straight sided faceted girdle