



KULSEN & HENNIG Nature's Brilliant Colours

Newsletter No. 10

01/2012

In this Edition:

KULSEN & HENNIG News

Pink Diamonds

Come and visit Us at INHORGENTA MUNICH 2012

Our New Colour Grading Card for Pink Diamonds

From our Collection: A 0.30 ct Radiant Cut Fancy Intense Purplish Pink

All about Natural Coloured Diamonds

Pink - A Lighter Red

The World of Pink Diamonds

Famous Pink Diamonds

Gemmology Corner

Diamond Colour: Pink

KULSEN & HENNIG News

Pink Diamonds

Dear Customers and Readers, Dear Friends,

What do you think of when you hear the word "pink"? Baby pink? A little pink pig? Seeing life through rose tinted spectacles? Or does the image of an exceptional diamond, the pink diamond, come to mind?

This latest edition of our newsletter is dedicated to the colour pink. Our exhibit this year at [INHORGENTA MUNICH 2012](#) and our new colour grading card are also devoted to pink. Find inspiration in this unique colour; learn not only where pink diamonds come from, but also everything else there is to know about this exceptional, natural treasure.

Happy reading!

The KULSEN & HENNIG Team



Come and Visit Us at INHORGENTA MUNICH 2012

We would be pleased to have you come and visit us at INHORGENTA MUNICH 2012 from February 10 – 13.

Come and discover our range of goods as well as new ideas for your future collections and exhibits. It would also be the perfect opportunity to meet our entire team.

Our new colour grading card for pink diamonds will be waiting for you!

We look forward to your visit!

The KULSEN & HENNIG Team

To find us: Hall C1 / Stand 309 / Aisle C



Our New Colour Grading Card for Pink Diamonds

This year, we are pleased to present our new colour grading card for that exceptional and rare diamond colour.... pink. This card is the third in our series, coming after the cards for champagne and yellow diamonds.

Like the others, this card was designed to assist you in your customer dealings. It will also help facilitate discussions about various tints of colour. The card differs slightly from the standard colour grades used by the GIA that range from Light to Intense and from Vivid to Deep Pink. This year, we have added secondary colours like purple or purplish. This shows just how rare pure pink diamonds really are in nature.

On the back of the card, you will find important information explaining how pink diamonds are formed and where they are found.

To download the colour grading card, click

[here](#).



From Our Collection: A 0.30 ct Radiant Cut Fancy Intense Purplish Pink Diamond

Today, we are presenting a cheeky little radiant cut pink diamond. The Gemological Institute of America (GIA) has given it a well-deserved Fancy Intense Purplish Pink grade.

Its clear cut, intense colour and good clarity make it an interesting stone that could also attract attention from collectors looking for rare pieces.

E-mail: info@kulsen-hennig.com
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[View GIA Certificate.](#)

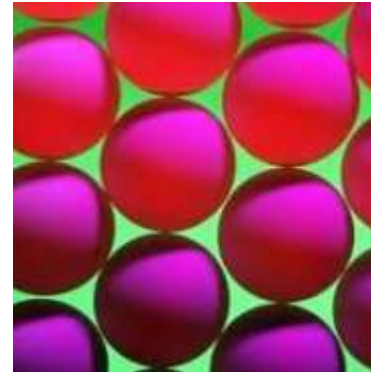
All about Natural Coloured Diamonds

Pink - A Lighter Red

When we speak of Pink, we are usually referring to a bright, intense, "hot pink".

In English, on the contrary, Pink can refer to a type of carnation (the flower's name has been referenced since 1573). "Hot pink" describes a bright pink, whereas "shocking pink" has become the trademark of the avant-gardist fashion designer Elsa Schiaparelli (1890 – 1973).

Pink and purple are also known as magenta, a colour associated with idealism, gratitude and compassion. In the world of fashion, it is regarded as a soft colour.



[Read more...](#)

The World of Pink Diamonds

The Argyle Diamond Mine, located in the Kimberly region of north-western Australia, has been for many years the main source of pink diamonds. Although pink diamonds can indeed be found throughout the world, the Argyle Diamond Mine has the largest reserves. Currently, 90% of these stones are mined in Australia. No one knows what the future holds, however, and according to certain forecasts, the mine could still continue to produce until 2019.



© Argyle Diamonds

The open pit mine has been exhausted and underground mining has been judged too costly. As a result, pink diamonds are becoming scarce and their prices have reached all-time highs. Those rare specimens that are available are sold at auctions organized by Christie's and Sotheby's or at the annual private sale organized by the Argyle Diamond Mine.

[Read more...](#)

Famous Pink Diamonds

Famous diamonds often have a chequered past whether they have been given, sold, stolen or found.

Pink diamonds, like red diamonds, are particularly rare.

They continue to fascinate and their power of attraction is magical. Come with us on a journey to the world of famous pink diamonds.

[Read more...](#)



Gemmology Corner

Diamond Colour: Pink

Pink diamonds are some of the world's rarest precious stones. Their colour is caused by a shift in the diamond's crystal lattice. Type Ia diamonds as well as a few type IIa diamonds can have this natural pink colour.

The main colour is often accompanied by modifying tints. This is why a pink colour may tend towards orange, purple or brown. Although Argyle Diamonds and the Gemological Institute of America (GIA) use two different colour grading systems, both of which are very helpful in trade and colour assessment, the GIA colour grading scale has become the industry reference.



© Argyle Diamonds

[Read more...](#)

You will receive our next newsletter in May 2012.

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

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COLORED DIAMOND IDENTIFICATION AND GRADING REPORT

GIA REPORT 16380800

October 09, 2007

Shape and Cutting Style **CUT-CORNERED SQUARE MODIFIED BRILLIANT**

Measurements **3.67 x 3.66 x 2.74 mm**

Weight **0.30 carat**

Color Grade

Origin **NATURAL**

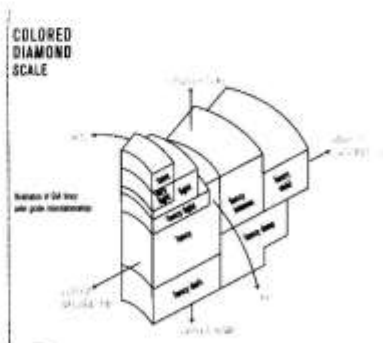
Grade **FANCY INTENSE**

..... **PURPLISH PINK**

Distribution **EVEN**

Comments:

None



477528902



This Report is not a guarantee, valuation or appraisal and contains only the characteristics of the diamond described herein after it has been graded, tested, examined and analyzed by the GIA Laboratory and/or has been certified using the techniques and equipment used by the GIA Laboratory at the time of the examination and/or description. Descriptions reported in this document are not a guarantee, valuation, or warranty of an article's quality, purity or origin or source, or that the article will be identifiable by the description in the future (these descriptions can be revised). GIA makes no representation concerning any trademarks, trade or symbol which is included by GIA or which is identified in this Report. The recipient of this Report may wish to consult a professional jeweler or gemologist about the information contained herein.

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KULSEN & HENNIG

Nature's Brilliant Colours

Newsletter No. 10

01/2012

All about Natural Coloured Diamonds

Pink – A Lighter Red

The Psychology of Colours

Pink is a blend of red and white, a mix of a warm colour and a cool colour. It is part of the red colour spectrum and is present in many tints such as dusky pink, baby pink, pastel pink, rosewood, pale pink, purplish pink or reddish pink.

Popular expressions reflect our perception of the colour pink: hence, we view the world through rose-tinted spectacles. Pink is the colour of optimism and presents a positive, joyful image, but one that can also be dreamy and vulnerable.

As a colour that does not make a strong visual impact, pink is the colour of compromise.

Traditional Colour Production

Purple

In terms of tint, pink belongs to purple. For many years, this colour was the most expensive. Symbolizing social rank, distinction and wealth, purple clothes were considered among the most valuable of textiles.



Napoleon in the coronation robe

In fact, the original purple dye was dark and fade-resistant because it was formed in the sun. It was extracted from the shells of sea snails found along the Mediterranean and was probably discovered by the Phoenicians.

For a very long time, little was known about how the dye was obtained. In ancient times, the sea snail used to obtain the purple dye was mainly the "purple dye" or "spiny-shelled" murex. These sea snails secrete a yellowish substance from a gland that, when exposed to the air and light, becomes first green, then blue, then purple and finally scarlet.



Purple snail



Even in antiquity, it was possible to obtain very different shades. In general, the darker the purple was, the more expensive it was. Intense colours were obtained through a double dyeing process.

Water or other red colorants like kermes were added to dye baths to lighten the final colour. The result ranged from violet to a reddish colour for which there were specific names like hyacinth purple.



KULSEN & HENNIG

Nature's Brilliant Colours

Newsletter No. 10

01/2012

Carmin (Krim-Dja: meaning "from the worm" in Sanskrit)

The Incas and the Aztecs knew how to produce the valuable carmine dye from the cochineal insect: one kilo of the insect is needed to make 50 grams of carmine.

Like gold and silver, cochineal insects later became an important commodity for the Spanish. Because the American cochineal contained more of the colour, it replaced the local kermes insects. In addition to Lanzarote and Fuerteventura, Peru is today the largest producer of natural cochineal.



Although the cochineal insect lives mainly on various cactus plants, its Indo-European cousin, the kermes insect, lives attached to the "Kermes Oak" (*Quercus coccifera*). In the past, these insects were often mistaken for berries.

The male transforms itself into a flying insect and dies after mating. The female insect attaches itself to the leaves of the tree then swells and lays the eggs within a sort of white shell. When the female has died, this shell protects the eggs, serving as a shield.

These shells are then harvested and dried to produce the dye

Magenta

Although the petals of the Mallow plant are magenta, the magenta colour does not exist naturally in the form of a pigment or dye, nor is it found on the colour spectrum.

This colour gained importance in art, fashion and culture in 1856 when a young chemist, William Henry Perkin (1838-1907), accidentally discovered the artificial dye mauveine. Three years later, he obtained the colour magenta by synthesis.



Magenta is part of the subtractive colour model CMYK, the technical basis for four-colour printing.

The **C** stands for Cyan, the **M** for Magenta, the **Y** for Yellow, and the **K** for Key (black). By using various combinations of these three colours and adding black for depth, it is possible to produce all the printing colours.



KULSEN & HENNIG

Nature's Brilliant Colours

Newsletter No. 10

01/2012

From Pink for Little Boys to Pink for Little Girls

Everyone knows that little girls wear pink and little boys wear blue, but that was not always the case. Traditionally, red was the colour of virility, strength, power and wealth. Hence, pink, as a lighter red, was the colour for little boys.

Old illustrations show young princes dressed in pink, just as Jesus is shown wearing pink in portraits. During the Rococo period, even older men wore pink as the colour was not yet reserved for youth or women. Little girls traditionally wore light blue, following the example of the Virgin Mary.

This custom changed around 1920. Children were no longer dressed like adults and with the ability to produce synthetic, non-toxic and boil resistant dyes, the range of colours for children's clothing expanded. Fashion designed just for children began, leaving old colour traditions behind.



Inspired by the blue work dungarees worn by manual labourers and the uniforms worn in the navy, blue became the colour for boys.



Model: Van Gils

The sailor suits worn by children are an excellent example of this trend. It is at this point that, compared to the cooler blue, soft pink, a symbol of delicacy and playfulness, became popular for girls.

This change in tradition has continued and men's fashion has once again adopted this colour.

Although a pink dress shirt may have been considered scandalous in 1960, today it is easy to find pink shirts, ties, suits and accessories for men.



Sources:

Eva Heller: "Wie Farben wirken.", May Edition 2002

Victoria Finlay: "Das Geheimnis der Farben. Eine Kulturgeschichte." Berlin 2005



KULSEN & HENNIG

Nature's Brilliant Colours

Newsletter No. 10

01/2012

All about Natural Coloured Diamonds

The World of Pink Diamonds

Argyle Diamond Mine

The Argyle Diamond Mine is located in north-western Australia, approximately 550 km south west of Darwin and more than 2 000 km north-west of Perth. Systematic searches for diamonds started as early as 1972, but it was only in 1979 that a couple of small stones were found in Smoke Creek. This find led to the discovery of the diamond-bearing "AK1 Pipe".

According to Argyle history, the exact position of the diamond-bearing volcanic pipe was identified after a rough diamond was found on anthill.

The Argyle Diamond Mine Joint Venture (ADMJV) was founded in 1982 and the construction of the mine began in 1984. Construction took 18 months and the mine opened in 1985. Rio Tinto, a leading international mining group, also active in gold, copper, and bauxite mining, today owns 100% of the Argyle Diamond Mine.



© Argyle Diamonds



Seeds for environmental rehabilitation
© Argyle Diamonds

The mine operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. In the beginning, alluvial deposits were also mined and their productivity greatly contributed to the development of the mining company.

Argyle has its own environmental rehabilitation projects and programmes to compensate or correct as much as possible any environmental damage caused. The Argyle Mine is the world's largest producer of natural coloured diamonds, including champagne, silvermist and the rarest of all, the Argyle Pink Diamonds. In fact the Argyle Mine produces more than 90 % of the world's supply of rare pink diamonds.

The Open Pit Mine

The open pit mine currently covers almost 300 hectares. Explosives are used, with each blast liberating about 3 000 tons of rock. Today, about one sixth of the liberated material is diamond-bearing rock. It is processed on-site.

Today, the open pit mining operation produces much less than when mining began. More and more non-diamond-bearing rock must be extracted to reach the diamond-bearing rock.



© Argyle Diamonds



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Nature's Brilliant Colours

Newsletter No. 10

01/2012

The Underground Mine

Ten years ago, the mine operators knew that the open-pit mine would soon be exhausted. Since then, a considerably more expensive underground mine has been developed.

A 2.5 kilometre tunnel leads to a lamproite ore body 85 metres below the existing open pit mine. Global market conditions in 2009 and severe flooding in 2010 caused the mining company to slow the development of the underground project.

Construction of the underground mine is now back on track with first production slated for 2013. The underground mine is expected to be fully operational by 2014, extending the life of the Argyle mine until at least 2019.

Production

Since 1985, the Argyle Mine has produced on average 35 million carats per year. Aside from the rare pink diamonds, the Argyle production is dominated by a high volume of small, lower value, coloured diamonds. The entire Argyle production is destined for the fine jewellery market.

The Tender

The "Argyle Pink Diamond Tender" was created in the mid-1980s by Argyle Diamonds. Leading diamond merchants and jewellers are invited to exclusive presentations in a number of overseas locations during which they can bid on the most exceptional pink diamonds.

Bids are made in sealed envelopes and at the end of the auction, when the final price is announced, the highest bidder gets the diamond.

Only the most exceptional stones are for sale and prices can reach from USD 100 000 to 1 000 000 per carat.

Each year, 40 to 50 stones are sold in this manner. For every million carats of rough diamonds produced at the mine, a mere one carat is suitable for sale in one of these tenders.

Their average weight is 1 carat, with no stone weighing less than 0.50 carat. In 2010, 55 exceptional pink diamonds were sold at the Tender.



© Argyle Diamonds



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KULSEN & HENNIG

Nature's Brilliant Colours

Newsletter No. 10

01/2012

Availability and Price

Pink diamonds have become extremely popular, especially in Asia where demand has increased more than in western countries.

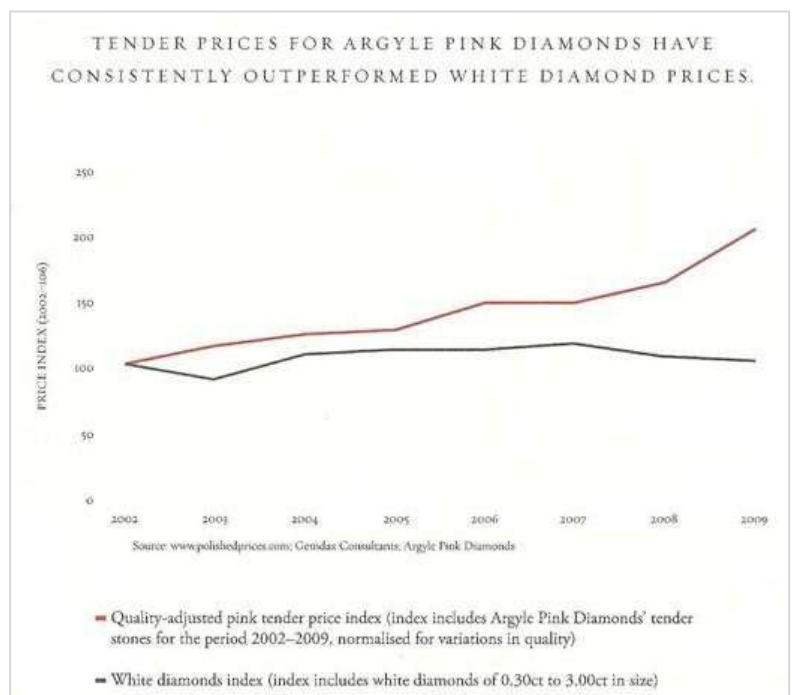
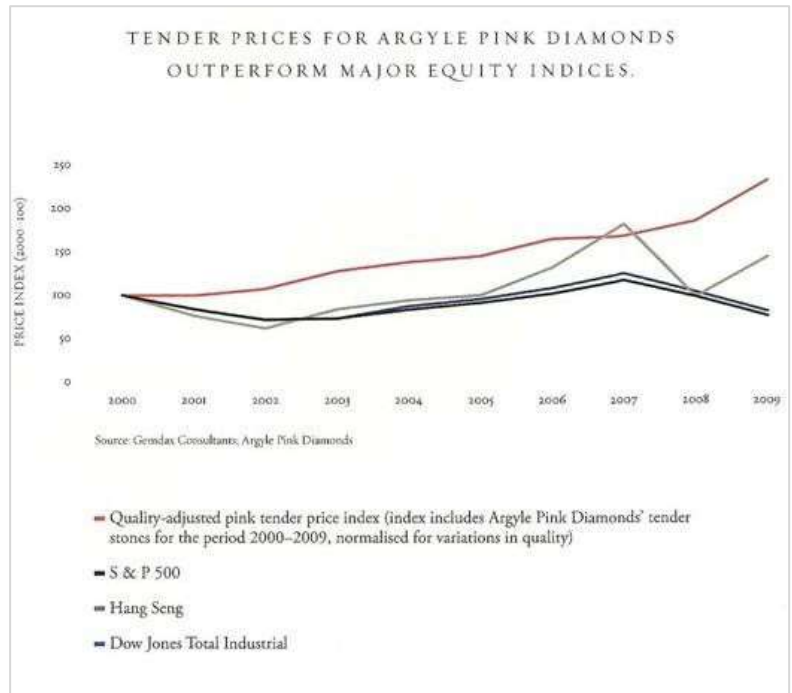
Both professionals and customers are more and more aware that the end of the Argyle mine is in sight.

The anticipated shortage of pink diamonds has already led to a significant price increase.

In the last few years, prices have more than doubled. Larger stones, such as those sold at auctions, reach prices reserved for collectors.

Hence, the highest price ever paid per carat for a diamond sold at an auction was for a pink diamond. On December 1, 2009 at Christie's in Hong Kong, a 5 carat cushion cut diamond, known as *The Rose* was purchased for the incredible price of USD 10 830 719, or USD 2 166 143 per carat.

Only four and a half years ago, this same stone was sold by Laurence Graff in his New York store for USD 3 000 000. Where else can you triple your investment in such short time?





KULSEN & HENNIG

Nature's Brilliant Colours

Newsletter No. 10

01/2012

Selling Pink

Pink diamonds are timeless and offer many selling points. Already today, they are rare, and soon they will become even more exclusive. Although we would hardly advise investing in diamonds, pink diamonds certainly have interesting value components.

No other precious or semi-precious stone in the red spectrum has such a lively appearance. The attractive light refraction, together with a dispersion that can be visible even in saturated stones, makes the pink diamond particularly attractive.

Many customers today prefer jewellery that demonstrates understated elegance. With their concentrated value, pink, or even red, diamonds correspond beautifully to this preference.

To conclude, the fact that celebrities like Jennifer Lopez or Victoria Beckham own large pink diamonds has contributed to their growing popularity.

In the end

A legend among the Aborigines of Australia tells the story of a barramundi fish that escaped from the fishing net of three women and landed on the spot now occupied by the Argyle Mine.

While trying to get free, the fish shed its multi-coloured scales and those scales became the diamonds of all colours found there today. It is said that the pink diamonds came from its heart.



Sources:

GIA Color Reference Charts / Gems&Gemology In Review Colored Diamonds (GIA)

www.fancydiamonds.net , www.argylediamonds.com.au, www.kulsen-hennig.com

Rapaport Diamond Report May 2011

Diamonds (Marijan Dundek)



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Nature's Brilliant Colours

Newsletter No. 10

01/2012

All about Natural Coloured Diamonds

Famous Pink Diamonds

Name	Weight	Colour Grading	Cut
<i>Great Table</i>	Approx. 280.00 ct	Light Pink	Flat Pentagonal Step Cut
<i>Darya-I-Nur</i>	Approx. 186.00 ct	Light Pink	Modified Flat Step Cut
<i>Nur-Ul-Ain</i>	Approx. 60.00 ct	Light Pink	Modified Oval Brilliant Cut
<i>The Steinmetz Pink</i>	59.60 ct	Fancy Vivid Pink	Modified Oval Mixed Cut
<i>Pink Sunrise</i>	29.78 ct	Fancy Pink	Modified Heart Shape
<i>Agra</i>	28.15 ct	Fancy Light Pink / Fancy Pink	Modified Cushion Cut
<i>The Graff Pink</i>	23.88 ct	Fancy Intense Pink	Modified Emerald Cut
<i>Hortensia</i>	20.53 ct	Light (Orangy) Pink	Modified Pentagonal Cut
<i>Condé</i>	9.01 ct	Light Pink	Modified Pear Shape
<i>Moussaieff Red</i>	5.11 ct	Fancy Red	Modified Trillion Cut

Great Table

The *Great Table* diamond weighed approximately 242.00 carats and was discovered in India. It is believed to have been split in two to form the *Darya-i-Nur* and the *Nur-ul-Ain*.



Great Table - Draft by J.B. Tavernier

In 1662, Jean-Baptiste Tavernier (1605-1685), renowned traveller and diamond merchant, was able to sketch the *Great Table* in its original form in Golconda, a fortress city located a few kilometres west of present day Hyderabad in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh.



Jean-Baptiste Tavernier (1605-1685)

He describes it as being one of the biggest diamonds he had ever seen in India.



KULSEN & HENNIG

Nature's Brilliant Colours

Newsletter No. 10

01/2012

In 1969, two Canadian gemmologists studied the Iranian crown jewels which included among others the *Dara-i-Nur* and the *Nur-ul-Ain*. During their study, they noticed that the two stones possessed exactly the same colour and clarity; this observation led them to suppose that in fact both diamonds had come from the *Great Table* diamond.

After more extensive analysis, they agreed that the *Great Table* must have been cut in two sometime between 1794 and 1834.



Replica: Great Table, Nur-ul-Ain and Darya-i-Nur

Darya-i-Nur

The Darya-i-Nur, a light pink diamond weighing approximately 186.00 carats, is considered to be the most exceptional diamond of the Iranian crown jewels. Its name means "sea of light". In 1739, the Persians stole it from the Mogul Emperor of India, then in 1797, Fath Ali Shah inherited the stone and had his name inscribed on one facet of the diamond.

The *Darya-i-Nur* is mounted in a frame made up of 457 small diamonds and surmounted by a lion and a sun. This setting was designed during the reign of Shah Nasser-ed Din.



Nur-ul-Ain

The *Nur-ul-Ain* ("light of the eye") is a pale pink oval cut diamond weighing approximately 60.00 carats. It is the centrepiece of the tiara designed by Harry Winston for the 1958 wedding of the Empress Farah to Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi, the last Shah of Iran.



This stone is set in platinum and surrounded by small pink, yellow and colourless diamonds.

A row of colourless baguette diamonds forms the base of the tiara. In total, the diadem contains 324 diamonds.

Steinmetz Pink

The *Steinmetz Pink* is a 59.60 carat oval cut diamond. Considered as the largest cut diamond in its colour grade, it has received a Fancy Vivid Pink grading from the GIA. This internally flawless stone is a type IIa diamond. The rough stone weighed approximately 100 carats and was discovered in 1990 in southern Australia.

The Steinman Group bought it from De Beers and took almost two years to cut the diamond to its final form, an oval mixed cut, with a step cut crown and a brilliant cut pavilion.





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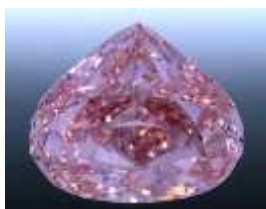
Nature's Brilliant Colours

Newsletter No. 10

01/2012

In May 2003, during the Monaco Grand Prix, the Steinmetz Group presented its collection of flawless diamonds. For the occasion, the *Steinmetz Pink*, worn by supermodel Helena Christensen, was unveiled for the first time to a very select few. Then that summer, the diamond featured in an exhibit called "The Splendor of Diamonds" at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C. along with other world famous diamonds.

The actress Jenna Elfman wore the *Steinmetz Pink*, set as a pendant, for the opening of the exhibit. The uniqueness of such a large pink diamond is even more striking when one bears in mind that of the 66 largest diamonds in the world, only one is pink! The *Steinmetz Pink* is still owned by the Steinmetz Group.



Pink Sunrise

This diamond, also flawless, weighs 29.78 carats. Its colour is described as Fancy Pink. Gabi Tolowsky gave the *Pink Sunrise* a modified heart shape similar to that of the 273.85 carat *Centenary Diamond* (D/IF).

Little is known about the stone's origin, date of discovery, or original owner.

Agra

This interesting stone currently weighs 28.15 carats and has been graded as a Fancy Light Pink, VS2 clarity diamond. Today, the *Agra* belongs to the SIBA Corporation of Hong Kong who bought it at an auction in 1990 for £ 4 070 000.

The history of the *Agra* begins in 1526 when Babur (the tiger), the first Mogul Emperor in India, captured the city of Agra. We believe Babur obtained the *Agra* diamond when he spared the lives of the defeated Raja von Gwailor and his family.

Many incredible stories have circulated about how the stone came to Europe from India, but they all have one point in common – the role of the British occupant. What is known for sure, however, is that Edwin Streeter, a London jeweler, bought the stone in 1891 in Paris from Bram Hertz, a well-known diamond merchant.

Edwin Streeter paid for the stone with a pearl necklace worth £ 14 000 and £ 1 000 in cash. Sometime before, Bram Hertz had recut the diamond to eliminate several black inclusions. The *Agra* weighed 32.32 carats at that time. When Edwin Streeter retired, his successor sold the stone in 1905 to a certain Maz Meyer for 5 100 guineas (gold coins) at Christie's in London.

Four years later, the stone was auctioned off in Paris, without reaching the reserve price of 300 000 French francs. A short time later, the diamond was purchased by Louis Winans a wealthy American railroad heir to be added to his collection of natural coloured diamonds.





KULSEN & HENNIG

Nature's Brilliant Colours

Newsletter No. 10

01/2012

During World War II, this diamond remained safely buried in the garden of Louis Winan's heir before being sold on June 20, 1990 at Christie's in London to its current owners, the SIBA Corporation of Sam Adams. After this final auction, the diamond was once again recut to improve its colour from Fancy Light Pink to Fancy Pink. Today, the diamond weighs 28.15 carats.



The Graff Pink

On November 16, 2010, a pink, emerald cut diamond with rounded corners and an unheard of 24.78 carat weight was auctioned off by Sotheby's in Geneva. Pre-auction estimates for this stone that had been around the world reached USD 27 000 000. The London jeweller Laurence Graff finally bought this exceptional diamond for USD 46 158 674, which corresponds to USD 1 862 739 per carat. That is the highest price ever paid for a single stone.

The Gemological Institute of America (GIA) has certified the diamond as a rare type IIa with a colour grade of Fancy Intense Pink.

In reference to the stone's origins, we only know that it was sold in the 1950s by the American celebrity jeweller Harry Winston to a private collector who kept it until it was auctioned off in 2010.

After acquiring the stone, Laurence Graff named it the *Graff Pink*. He also recut the stone bringing it to its current weight of 23.88 carats, although we do not know if this has had an impact on the

Hortensia

This flat, pentagonal cut diamond has a pale pink colour with a hint of orange. It weighs 20.53 carats and probably originates from India. It was named after the Queen of Holland, Hortense de Beauharnais, Empress Josephine's daughter, Napoleon's step-daughter and mother of Napoleon III.

Why it was given this name remains a mystery as Hortense never wore the diamond, nor did she ever own it. The closest connection that can be found is that she was the step-daughter and sister-in-law of Napoleon Bonaparte, one of the owners of the stone.

By the reign of King Louis XIV (1638-1715), the orangy pink diamond was already part of the French Crown Jewels. During the French Revolution it was stored in the royal Garde Meuble from which it was stolen in 1792. A year later, one of the robbers revealed where some of the Crown Jewels had been hidden. This is how the *Hortensia* came to be found in the attic of a house in the Halles district of Paris.

During Napoleon's first reign, the diamond came into his possession. In 1830, the *Hortensia* was again stolen, only to reappear again sometime after at the Ministry of the Navy. In 1887, the French Crown Jewels were sold, but the *Hortensia* was excluded from the sale because of its history and artistic value. Today, both the *Hortensia* and the *Regent* are on display at the Louvre.





KULSEN & HENNIG

Nature's Brilliant Colours

Newsletter No. 10

01/2012

Condé

The *Condé*, a 9.01 carat, pear-shaped diamond, is a pale pink stone also called the *Condé Pink*, *Condé Diamant* or *Le Grand Condé*. Agents of King Louis XIII are said to have bought the stone in 1663.

The King then presented it to Louis de Bourbon, Prince of Condé, in recognition of his achievements as military commander of the French army during the 30 Year War.

The diamond remained in the Condé family until the Duc d'Aumale bequeathed it to the French government in 1892. Today, it is on display at the Condé Museum in Chantilly, where, according to the terms of the Duc's will, it must always remain.



Moussaieff Red

Originally known as the *Red Shield*, the *Moussaieff Red* is a flawless, 5.11 carat diamond which has received a Fancy Red colour grading from the GIA. It is currently the largest red diamond in the world. Its value was estimated in 2001/2002 at USD 8 000 000, or USD 1 600 000 per carat, when its current owner Lisa Moussaieff, proprietor of the London Jeweller Moussaieff Jewellers, bought it from William Goldberg, the famous New York diamond merchant. Today, the value of the Moussaieff Red is estimated at USD 20 000 000.

In the 1990s, a Brazilian farmer is said to have found the rough diamond, weighing 13.9 carats, in the Abaetezinho, a river in the Alto Paranaíba region.

Red diamonds are the rarest of all natural fancy coloured diamonds. They belong to the family of Deep or Vivid Pink and only a very few rare specimens obtain the colour grade of Fancy Red, that of a pure red with no secondary colours.



KULSEN & HENNIG

Nature's Brilliant Colours

Newsletter No. 10

01/2012

Gemmology Corner

Diamond Colour: Pink

Causes of Pink

Pink is one of the rarest and most sought after diamond colours. Pink diamonds do not owe their appearance to foreign atoms like most other natural coloured diamonds. Pink and red colours are caused by a deformation of the crystal lattice. This shift in the crystal lattice is produced under tremendous pressure and at extremely high temperatures after, and not during, the formation of the stone.

Under 10x magnification, many pink and brown diamonds from the Argyle Mine show evidence of "graining" due to this geological stress. Graining appears as shadow lines on the surface or the inside of the diamond.



Type of Diamonds

Pink diamonds can be divided into two types of diamonds. Type Ia diamonds contain nitrogen and most natural pink diamonds fall into this category. These diamonds often have secondary colours like brown, purple and orange and cover a broad spectrum, ranging from "Faint" to "Vivid" to "Deep". Type IIa stones are much rarer and contain little nitrogen. They tend to be pastel coloured, are rarely zoned and are found in combination with orange and purple.

Fluorescence

Approximately 70% of all pink diamonds exhibit a characteristic blue fluorescence when viewed under ultraviolet light.

Sources

Historically, pink diamonds have been found in India, in Brazil since 1725 and in South Africa since 1860. They have also been found in Borneo. Today, 90% of the world's annual production comes from the Australian Argyle Mine, opened in 1979.

Pink diamonds, however, are not only found in far-off Kimberly in north-west Australia. Just as before, they can still be found throughout the world. The extremely rare, large, over-ten carat diamonds come mainly from Brazil and South Africa. But, because of its unique geological situation, Australia is where the largest quantities of this rare colour are found.



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Newsletter No. 10

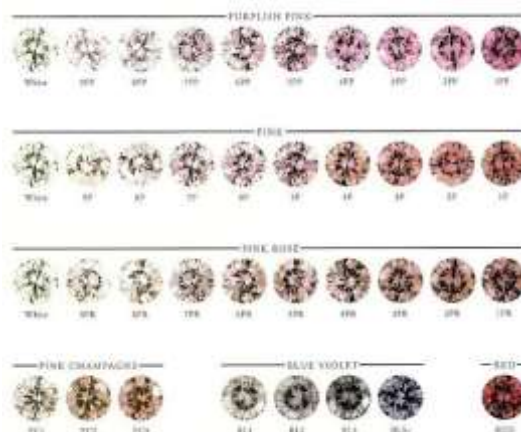
01/2012

Comparison of Colour Grading System

Argyle Colour Chart

Argyle Diamonds uses its own grading system to classify their pink stones. This system divides the reds into "Purplish Pink", "Pink", "Pink Rosé", "Pink Champagne" and "Red". In this system, the most saturated stones are denoted by 1.

The lighter the stone's colour, the higher its number will be; the higher number is an indication of decreasing saturation. Diamonds with a 9 rating have just a touch of pink, except for "Pink Champagne" diamonds.



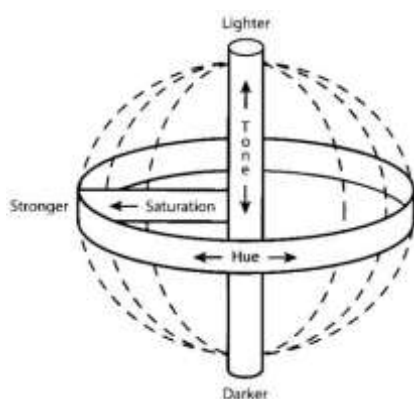
Argyle Diamonds defines "Pink Champagne" as being brown stones with pink modifiers. To compare, according to the widely used C1 - C7 color designations for champagne-colored diamonds, the 1 here indicates the lightest hue. The colour degree of "Red", which only intensely saturated red stones can attain, is a category in itself.

GIA Colour Grading System

The Gemological Institute of America (GIA) has developed a colour grading system similar to a ball made up of three dimensions: hue, tone and saturation.

Hue describes the colour of the stone, such as red, yellow or green. These colours are aligned along the equator of the ball.

Tone measures how light or dark the stone is. The closer the stone is to the northern end of the sphere, the lighter it is; the closer it is to the southern end, the darker it is. Saturation describes the intensity of the colour, whether a stone is brightly coloured or pastel, for example.



The GIA colour grades are: "Faint Pink", "Light Pink", "Fancy Light Pink", "Fancy Pink", "Fancy Intense Pink", "Fancy Vivid Pink" and "Fancy Deep Pink".

In trade, the GIA colour scale is of much greater significance than the Argyle Colour Charts, although both can be useful tools if a particular stone is being sought. Neither, however, can replace the trained eye of an expert and direct comparison.



KULSEN & HENNIG

Nature's Brilliant Colours

Newsletter No. 10

01/2012

Different Pinks

All pink colours, whether Orangy-Pink, Purplish-Pink, Brownish-Pink or pure pink, owe their colour to a major shift in the diamond's crystal lattice. The intensity of this plastic deformation is responsible for the colour saturation. Orangy-Pink diamonds are rarely deeply saturated.



Fancy Orangy Pink



Fancy Intense Purplish Pink



Fancy Brownish Pink

Purplish-Pink raw material coming from the Argyle mine has more graining than other pink colours. The stone cutter must be very careful because, depending on the orientation of these colour zones, the impression given off by the finished, cut diamond can vary greatly and influence its value.

Stones of a pure pink are extremely rare. The colour of these exceptional diamonds is also called "bubble gum" pink.

Sources:

www.fancydiamonds.net, www.argylediamonds.com.au, www.kulsen-hennig.com

Gems&Gemology: In Review Colored Diamonds (GIA)

Rapaport Diamond Report May 2011

GIA Color Reference Charts

Diamonds (Marijan Dundek)



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Newsletter No. 10

01/2012

Argyle Colour Chart

