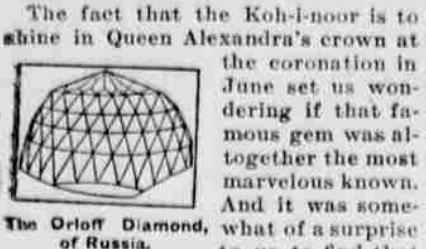


Some Famous Gems of the World's Royalty

The Koh-i-nur, of Queen Alexandra's Crown, is Among the Smaller Ones.



The Orloff Diamond, of Russia.

The fact that the Koh-i-noor is to shine in Queen Alexandra's crown at the coronation in June set us wondering if that famous gem was altogether the most marvelous known. And it was somewhat of a surprise to us to find that it was not the biggest diamond nor its rays of the purest serenity of any with which the world is now acquainted. There are others.

The largest diamond in Europe for many years was the Orloff, in the possession of Russia, who has an extraordinary fondness for gems and owns an immense quantity of diamonds and countless sapphires, rubies and pearls. The Orloff has a weight of 193 carats, almost twice that of the Koh-i-noor as now cut. The earliest history of the Orloff is unknown; at least there is much contradiction existent as to its origin; but that it came from India and that many generations have appreciated its value none deny.

Much that savors of romance is connected with the history of all the world's famous gems; there are stories of love and intrigue, also fearsome tales of friends turned traitors, of mutilated slaves, and of foul murder. The Orloff has not been so barbaric in blood as some of the others, the Koh-i-noor for instance, fighting for whose possession many and many a strong man gave up his life and not a few were put to torture.

This is the story of the Russian stone: Somewhere near the middle of the eighteenth century a Frenchman, a soldier in the French garrison at Pondicherry, became enamored of the idea of looking upon a sacred jewel which formed the eye of Brahma, who dwelt in the holy temple of Sringerimotho. The god and the gem were most religiously guarded. The monastery that they have graced consisted of as many as seven separate enclosures, many towers, and a cupola, and a whole host of Brahmins served about the altar. It was indeed only the boldest, most reckless spirit that would dream of entering and ever being able to leave such a fortress.

But the French soldier not only dreamed, but saw his dream come true. He deserted from the army and became a Brahmin, a very, very zealous disciple. He found favor with the priests, and was so trusted that they gave him the office of guarding the inner sanctuary. He repaid their trust by digging out the diamond eye and carrying it away. At Madras he sold the diamond to an English sea captain for \$10,000. A Jew merchant bought it from the captain at an advance of \$50,000, and set about to sell it to the highest bidder he could capture. Catherine of Russia wanted it, but did not like the Jew's price, and refused to buy. A Russian nobleman, Prince Orloff, a one-time favorite of Catherine, purchased it and presented it to her, hoping thereby to win back her fickle affections.

The Orloff is mounted in the Imperial scepter, which is used only at coronations. When Catherine died, her son had performed a most gruesome ceremony, at which the Orloff shone with unholy brilliancy. The body of Paul's father, who had been banished by Catherine and murdered by one of the Orloffs, was placed beside that of his faithless wife. The coronation ornament was brought from Moscow, and the wretched skeleton, which had lain in the grave 35 years, was given the ceremony that had been neglected when it was clothed in flesh and the spirit of life dwelt in it.

The Orloff has figured since at numerous coronations, where the scepter always plays an important part. When not in use, the imperial diamond is kept in the Kremlin, where is guarded the Regalia.

The famous yellow diamond of Austria weighs 139 1/2 carats. This diamond, of which mention is made as early as 1642, was known as the "Florentine" diamond. The story goes that it was once sold in Florence for a few pennies, the seller thinking he was parting with a bit of glass. The Medici had it in their possession for some time, and when their line became extinct it fell into the hands of Francis Stephen and his wife, Maria Theresa, archduchess of Austria. The latter confiscated it and carried it to Austria, which country has held it ever since.

The Regent, of which the French nation is the proud possessor, is another diamond that exceeds the Koh-i-noor

in size, weighing 136 1/2 carats. The story goes that this diamond, which in the rough weighed 410 carats, was found by a slave not so very far from the famous mines of Golconda. He managed to conceal it in a wound in the calf of his leg, escaped the inspectors, and in Madras tried to find a purchaser for his treasure. The wretched fellow was killed by the one to whom he disclosed his secret, and the murderer sold the gem to a diamond merchant for \$5,000. Mr. Thomas Pitt, grandfather of the earl of Chatham, purchased the stone of the merchant for \$26,000, escorted it home, had it cut (the process took two years), and eventually sold it to the king of France for \$875,000. The name "Regent" was bestowed upon the diamond in honor of the duke of Orleans, who was then acting as regent for the youth that later ruled as Louis XV. The Regent has shone in the crown of French kings, in the hilt of the sword of Napoleon Bonaparte, and in the imperial diadem of Louis Napoleon.

Tradition would give to the Koh-i-noor fabulous age, thousands and thousands of years. In the vivid phraseology of India, it was valued at "half the daily expenditure of the whole world" and small wonder then that it aroused such unwholesome passions in men, urging them on to plunder, torture and murder. It is thought the stone was held for ages by the family of the rajah of Malwa, which family was forced to give it up in 1204 to the sultan of Al-ed-din. When the treasures of Delhi fell into the hands of the Moguls they obtained possession of "one famous diamond which had been acquired by the sultan of Al-ed-din." The Moguls held the stone for several generations. Some say that the Koh-i-noor was one of the eyes of the peacock that formed a certain Mogul's famous peacock throne, the throne composed entirely of precious stones. It is known that it was worn in the turbans of the Mogul emperors up to 1739. When Nadir Shah came over to Delhi from Persia in 1739 he found the then Mogul not what his ancestors had been and experienced little trouble in conquering him. Conqueror and conquered treated each other with becoming ceremony. After the surrender, when the wily Nadir Shah made known his desire to change turbans with Mohammed Shah, the defeated Mogul, there was nothing for the latter to do but remove his turban, with the Koh-i-noor in its folds, and hand it over to Nadir.

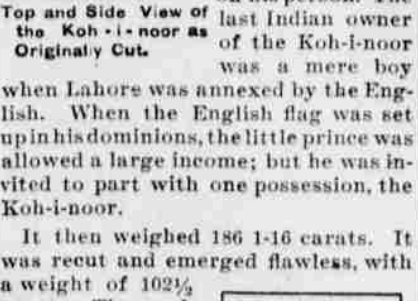
The diamond descended to Nadir's unfortunate son, whose eyes were put out and who was subjected to other tortures in order that he would relinquish the coveted gem. The lord of Kandihar came to his rescue, and on the death of the Persian received the Koh-i-noor as a reward for his service; it thus coming into the hands of the Afghans. Shining in a bracelet on the arm of an Afghan sovereign, the Koh-i-noor was first seen by English eyes.

Rebellions among the Afghans caused the owner of the Koh-i-noor to flee to Lahore, and the diamond fell into the hands of the fierce ruler of that country. His successor on the throne and in the possession of the Koh-i-noor died of poison. The one who came after him was killed with the jewel upon his person. The last Indian owner of the Koh-i-noor was a mere boy when Lahore was annexed by the English. When the English flag was set up in his dominions, the little prince was allowed a large income; but he was invited to part with one possession, the Koh-i-noor.

It then weighed 186 1-16 carats. It was recut and emerged flawless, with a weight of 102 1/2 carats. The work of recutting was an extremely delicate one, an expert workman being brought from Amsterdam to undertake the task, and special machinery being constructed for it.

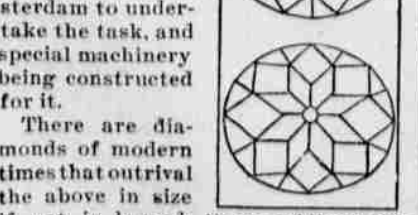
There are diamonds of modern times that outrival the above in size if not in legendary worth. Probably the largest one in the world is the Jubilee diamond found in Jagersfontein, South Africa, in 1893. Its weight is 239 carats, and it is valued at \$2,000,000. Another South African diamond, recently on exhibition at Buffalo, weighs 207 1/2 carats almost twice the weight of the Koh-i-noor.

KATHERINE POPE.



Austrian Yellow Diamond in the Rough.

The coronation ornament was brought from Moscow, and the wretched skeleton, which had lain in the grave 35 years, was given the ceremony that had been neglected when it was clothed in flesh and the spirit of life dwelt in it.



Upper and Under Surface of the Koh-i-noor as Recut.

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF THE TOWN OF BLOOMSBURG, FOR THE YEAR 1901.

Table showing tax rolls for 1901, including categories like Built up, Suburban, Farm, Personalty, Occupations, Dogs and Bitches, and various taxes.

Table showing exonerations for 1901, including Furniture Company, Bloomsburg Manufacturing Co., Steam Heating Company, and Electric Light Company.

Table showing balance on Duplicate of 1900 and balance on Duplicate of 1901, including J. K. Bittenbender, Tax Collector, and L. D. Kase, Tax Collector.

Table showing balance on Duplicate of 1900 and balance on Duplicate of 1901, including Miles Betz, Tax Collector, and E. F. Carpenter, Treasurer.

Table showing balance on Duplicate of 1900 and balance on Duplicate of 1901, including various orders and payments, such as Bloom Water Co., American Gas Company, and various contractors.

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