



The Bonhams Blue

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Posted by NCDIA

Recently, one of the most beautiful blue diamonds that I have ever seen was sold at Bonham's Auction House in London. I have taken the liberty to give it a name, "The Bonham's Blue" since this essentially marks the official beginning of its historical journey. Throughout my 30 plus years in seeing blue diamonds in the market, auctions and private collections, this diamond in particular merits attention for its significance. While 5 carats is a large size for a diamond, there are more than a few blue diamonds that are larger than this stone.

This particular stone had all the magic ingredient nature can endow for a spectacular blue diamond. To begin with, it was almost pure blue in tone though not extraordinarily dark, as the darker most blue diamonds get the more they begin to take on a blackish or over dark appearance. Starting with this intrinsic natural color in the diamond, the cutter of this diamond is a true Michael Angelo in the way he brought to the face-up color the maximum beauty of the blue. The master cutter knew that the large facets and the face-up color would combine for the best combination of color and brilliance. All color diamonds need to be cut to balance these most obvious traits. While I have seen many deep blue diamonds both larger and smaller, in my opinion most have touch of gray to black that is present in, even when the gemological description does not include gray in its color description.

5.3ct Fancy Deep Blue sold at Bonhams in April.

What is so important about this diamond and the price paid by Graff, is that it was not the most coveted GIA grade of Vivid Blue, but Deep Blue. For some reason (marketers) there is a conception that Vivid Blue is more desirable than Deep Blue. This is a perception created by people who are not as experienced with the diamonds as they are with certificates. There are so many varieties, tones and shades of blue, and many deep blues have an over dark appearance. This diamond is significant because it sheds light on the importance to stress the beauty of a diamond rather than the lab description that defines it.

by Alan Bronstein, Aurora Gems