

Mogok diamond Molopo Reserve

Contributed by Administrator
Friday, 21 September 2007

Mogok diamond. A misnomer for colorless topaz found at Mogok, Burma. Mogul Diamond. See great mogul DIAMOND. Mogul (or Moghal, Mughul) Dynasty (1562-1857). Founded by Baber the Mongol. The Mogul Empire embraced all of northern and central India and the Afghan lands about Kabul and Kandahar. The greatest of Baber's descendants were Akbar, Shah Jehan and Aurangzeb. After the death of Aurangzeb (1707), the Empire declined rapidly. In 1739, Nadir Shah, of Persia, sacked Delhi, the capital of the Empire, and the title of "Great Mogul" that was given to the emperors became but a name. The Mogul emperors had vast stores of gems, particularly diamonds. Tavernier, often referred to as "the father of the diamond trade," traveled extensively in India, and at the court of Aurangzeb he saw a diamond sometimes known as the Great Mogul, as well as many other gems. See great MOGUL DIAMOND; TAVERNIER, JEAN BAPTISTE.

Mohs scale. The most commonly used scale of relative hardness of minerals: diamond, 10; corundum, 9; topaz, 8; quartz, 7; feldspar, 6; apatite, 5; fluorite, 4; calcite, 3; gypsum, 2; talc, 1. The divisions are not equal, having been chosen arbitrarily by the German mineralogist, Mohs. The difference between 9 and 8 is considerably greater than between any of the lower numbers. Between 9 and 10 the difference is greater than between 9 and 1. See hardness, SCLEROMETER. Moissan, Ferdinand Frederic Henri (1852-1907). A French chemist who, in 1893, claimed to have produced minute diamonds by fusing iron and carbon in an electric furnace and plunging the molten mass into water or molten lead. There was never any conclusive proof that the tiny hard crystals made by this process were actually diamonds. See synthetic diamond. Molopo Reserve. A minor alluvial diamond deposit in the Mafeking area, Cape Province, Republic of South Africa. Current production is negligible. Monastery Mine. A small diamond pipe mine in the Winburg area, Orange Free State, Republic of South Africa. monocular microscope. A magnifier equipped with a single objective and ocular (eyepiece). See microscope. Montleleo Mine. A small diamond pipe mine in the Winburg area, Orange Free State, Republic of South Africa. monzonite. A silica-rich plutonic igneous rock said to be associated with diamonds in Minas Gerais, Brazil.