

narrow cross section Nassak Diamond

Contributed by Administrator
Friday, 21 September 2007

narrow cross section. The maximum measured dimension through the smallest or narrowest diameter of the girdle outline in a fancy cut diamond. It is used in determining the depth and table percentages in proportion analysis. See fancy cut. Nassak Diamond. As first known in India, the Nassak was a 90-carat triangular-shaped stone; at present it is a magnificent, colorless, 43.38-carat emerald cut. This world-re-nowned diamond was once among the treasures of a Hindu temple near the city of Nassak, where it is said to have been the eye of an idol of the god Siva, deity of destruction and re-production. After the Maharatta War of 1818, it fell into the hands of the Marquis of Hastings and became part of the "Deccan Booty." The great diamond then became known as the Nassak. It was sent to England and was valued at \$150,000, but in 1831 it was sold at auction during a serious depression at the "distress" price of \$36,000. In 1837, it again went to the auction block and was sold to the 1st Marquis of Westminster, who mounted it in the hilt of his dress sword. The stone remained in the Westminster family for almost a cen-

ture. Then, it was sold by the 2nd Duke of Westminster to Georges Mauboussin, the Paris jeweler, who brought it to America in 1926 for display as an artistic antique. By this time, it had been cut from its original Indian weight to an 80.59-carat stone of unusual beauty, still retaining its triangular shape. The diamond was then returned to Paris, where it was purchased by Harry Winston, New York City gem dealer. Winston brought it back to New York, re-fashioned it to its present 43.38-carat emerald shape, and sold it to the New York jewelry firm of Trabert & Hoefler. Although brilliancy is lessened somewhat by an unorthodox but attractive facet arrangement on the pavilion, the stone qualifies as one of the most impressive of the world's well-known diamonds. In addition to being flawless and absolutely colorless, the polish is superb and the facet symmetry is above reproach. In 1944, the Nassak was purchased by Mrs. William B. Leeds of New York City, who wore it in a ring with two tapered diamond baguettes. In 1970, it was auctioned at Parke-Bernet Galleries, New York, to Mr. Edward Hand for \$500,000. Another name for the diamond is the Eye of Siva. Alternate spellings sometimes used are Nasik, Nassac, Nas-sack and Nessuck. National Association of Goldsmiths of Great Britain and Ireland. Abbreviation: NAG. Founded in 1894 exclusively for retail jewelers, it is the parent of the Gemmological Association of Great Britain. A wide range of services is offered to members from inquiry and assistance to correspondence courses. The official

journal is the Watchmaker, Jeweller and Silversmith. A Code of Trading issued by the NAG has established rules regarding diamond nomenclature.