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NATURAL COLOURED DIAMOND DIVISION

Blue diamond's £6million sparkle: Rare gem breaks world record as it is sold at auction

**April 25, 2013 (Daily Mail)**

One of the rarest diamonds on the planet has been snapped up for a dazzling £6.2million - smashing the previous world record by half a million.

The one-of-a-kind blue stone, weighing 5.30 carats, fetched £1.18million (\$1.8million) per carat after going under the hammer at luxury London auction house Bonhams on Thursday.

Excitement for the item spilled over as international traders battled to take home the gem set in a 'Trombino' ring, eventually selling for six times its original estimation of £1million.

The ring was mastered by renowned Italian jewellers Bulgari, long favoured by Hollywood film stars such as Elizabeth Taylor.

Jean Ghika, director of Bonhams, said: 'We are delighted with the price it has made. It was a sensational stone which charmed everyone who viewed it prior to the sale.'

'Blue diamonds, especially those over 5.00 carats, are extremely rare to see on the market and continue to be highly sought-after. We are honoured to have handled the sale of such a unique gem.'

Blue diamonds are very rarely seen on the market and fancy-coloured diamonds are among the most valuable and sought-after in the world.

They have delighted royals and celebrities over the centuries, with the most famous blue 'Hope Diamond' bought by King Louis XIV of France in the late 17th Century.

The stunning 45.52 carat diamond, originating from India was eventually stolen from the Crown Jewels by thieves in the French Revolution and then smuggled to London, finally coming to rest in the Smithsonian Natural History Museum in Washington, D.C.

The Bulgari ring features a cushion-shaped fancy deep-blue diamond, weighing 5.30 carats. It is set horizontally within a mount pavé-set with brilliant-cut diamonds and courses of baguette-cut diamonds.

The term 'fancy' is used to describe a diamond of intense colour and the colour 'fancy deep-blue' is one of the rarest.

The extraordinary colour blue is derived from small atoms of boron mixing with the carbon atoms in a diamond, affecting the absorption of light passing through the stone and lending it a blue appearance.

Blue diamonds are structurally very pure and account for less than one per cent of all diamonds mined.



The 5.30 carat fancy deep-blue diamond was sold at Bonhams £6.2 million

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