Shah Jahan Table Cut

Specifications

Weight	56.72 carats
Dimensions	46 x 33 x 3.6 mm
Color	Colorless
Weight of Rough	Unknown
Origin	India
Date Found	Prior to 1617
Current Location	Kuwait National Museum

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Details

History of this diamond starts with Jahangir Shah, the fourth Shah of the Mogul empire who ruled in the very early 1600's. His son, prince Khurram, Shah Jahan, is shown holding the stone in a turban ornament in a painting by an unknown artist (c. 1616, India or Pakistan, watercolor and gold on paper, Victoria and Albert Museum).

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The stone was taken by the Iranian ruler Nadir Shah when he sacked Delhi in 1739. After this date its history is uncertain, some thinking it resided in private ownership, others stating it was in the Russian Diamond Fund. It came up for auction at Sotheby's in 1985 but remained unsold. It was somehow acquired from the unknown owner by the Kuwait National Museum.

The stone is a typical table cut, but unusual in that it is almost 2" (46 mm) long yet only 1/8" (3.6 mm) thick. The rough was more than likely a flat cleavage piece

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that was faceted and then drilled to hang as a pendant. Facet angles range from 1.25° up to about 20° for the corner facets.

Due to the shallow angles, the replica displays very little brilliance, yet it still lights up when light reflects off the backside facets. Note that it does not have the drilled holes of the original as drilling CZ is not something I care to chance!

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