

Jewellery



1
Early 20thC gold/diamond 3 stone ring, graduated Edwardian-cut stones, 0.93, 2.03 & 0.98cts, claw set, knife-edge shoulders, unmarked. *Drewatt Neate, Donnington. Nov 04. HP: £6,600. ABP: £7,763.*



2
Gold, sapphire and diamond three-stone ring, central oval sapphire, 9mm x 7mm wide x 8.1mm deep, cushion-shaped old brilliant-cut diamonds each 7.6 x 5.1mm, est. weight 2cts, pierced scroll setting. *Bearne's, Exeter. Jun 05. HP: £6,400. ABP: £7,528.*



3
2-stone diamond cross over ring, shoulders set small diamonds, each brilliant-cut stone approx 1.5ct. *Gorringes, Lewes. Apr 04. HP: £5,600. ABP: £6,587.*



4
Art Deco five stone diamond ring, 5 graduated old cut diamonds, approx 0.25ct 0.50ct, 0.75ct, 0.50ct, 0.25ct, interspersed with diamond set points, set between rose cut diamond set panels, with further diamond set, carved shoulders, set in white metal to the plain hoop, unmarked, weight 5.5gms. *Halls Fine Art, Shrewsbury. Nov 06. HP: £5,000. ABP: £5,881.*



5
Three stone diamond/gold ring, central stone flanked by slightly smaller stones. *Charterhouse Auctioneers, Sherborne. Feb 07. HP: £3,400. ABP: £3,999.*



6
Diamond cross-over ring, 2 brilliant cut stones approx 2.2cts total, claw set on 18ct white gold shank. *Hartleys, Ilkley. Feb 07. HP: £3,200. ABP: £3,764.*



7
Three stone diamond ring, approx 2.6ct, platinum shank, pierced shoulders. *Andrew Hartley, Ilkley. Aug 05. HP: £3,000. ABP: £3,528.*



8
Three stone diamond ring approx 2.6ct, platinum shank, pierced shoulders. *Andrew Hartley, Ilkley. Aug 05. HP: £3,000. ABP: £3,528.*



9
Yellow metal ring set two old cut diamonds in a crossover setting. *Locke & England, Leamington Spa. Jul 07. HP: £2,800. ABP: £3,293.*



10
Five stone diamond/platinum ring approx 2.5ct. *Andrew Hartley, Ilkley. Aug 05. HP: £2,500. ABP: £2,940.*



11
Three stone diamond ring, claw set in 18ct white gold, approx 1.89cts in total. *Gorringes, Lewes. Jan 05. HP: £2,300. ABP: £2,705.*



12
Platinum/diamond 3-stone ring, round old brilliant-cut stones, 6.0 x 4.2mm, 6.8 x 4.5mm, 6.0 x 3.7mm, weight 1.0ct, 1.35ct and 0.85ct approx, gallery claw setting. *Bearne's, Exeter. Jun 05. HP: £2,250. ABP: £2,646.*



13
Diamond ring, central diamond flanked by rows of five diamonds, palladium setting. *Charterhouse Auctioneers, Sherborne. Aug 07. HP: £2,200. ABP: £2,587.*



14
Diamond and yellow metal half hoop ring, set seven graduated diamonds. *Charterhouse Auctioneers, Sherborne. Feb 07. HP: £2,000. ABP: £2,352.*



15
Emerald and diamond cluster ring, collet set with a step cut emerald within a frame of brilliant cut diamonds. *Brightwells, Leominster. Nov 05. HP: £1,900. ABP: £2,234.*



16
Lady's 18ct white gold engagement/dress ring set five diamonds, approx 2.25ct. *Denhams, Warnham, Sussex. May 06. HP: £1,900. ABP: £2,234.*



17
Opal/diamond 3-stone ring, oval opal 12 x 9.5mm claw-set between circular brilliant-cut diamonds 5.9 x 3.7mm and 5.9 x 3.9mm, estimated to weigh 0.85ct and 0.9cts, claw setting. *Bearne's, Exeter. Jun 05. HP: £1,850. ABP: £2,176.*



18
Platinum/diamond 3-stone ring, graduated circular old brilliant-cut stones, approx 5.3 x 3.3mm, 6.2 x 3.8mm and 5.1 x 3.2mm, estimated to weigh 0.6cts, 0.95ct and 0.55cts, scroll pierced setting. *Bearne's, Exeter. Jun 05. HP: £1,800. ABP: £2,117.*



19
Blue sapphire and diamond cluster ring, central ceylon sapphire, (4.04ct) 18ct yellow gold shank, size N. *Dee, Atkinson & Harrison, Driffild. Sep 05. HP: £1,800. ABP: £2,117.*

Jewellery Series Part III.

Diamond Rings and how they are valued.

With price guide. By John Ainsley

In the last Edition I looked at the top end of the diamond ring market and particularly at solitaires, this being prefaced by a brief history and general facts about gold and platinum, the usual settings for diamonds. Here I will look more closely at diamonds and how they are valued and of course present the usual market context cross-referenced to the images. Readers who have an interest in buying jewellery may study just what you get for your money at auction. In general, providing you are buying from reputable sources prices usually reflect good savings compared to buying new, where modern manufacturing costs, plus wholesale and retail profit margins, plus VAT at 17.5% ensures that 'investments' are invariably poor value for money compared to buying secondhand. Just as important for many is that we are accessing our history and our heritage and can choose from styles representing many of the important periods of the past and perhaps pass these on to future generation.

A diamond, at its elemental level is only carbon. In combination with oxygen and hydrogen it is present in all living things. As charcoal or graphite it is grey to black, opaque and very soft. However as diamond it is the hardest known naturally occurring substance, and is both clear, and when perfect, colourless. Diamond is completely resistant to any form of chemical attack and itself is non-volatile. Not only is diamond extremely hard but it is also durable, that is it is tough, hard wearing and can therefore take on a very high polish. Its high refractive index ensures that diamonds have a very high lustre and the high dispersion qualities of diamonds ensures that the various wavelengths of light are diffracted differently, giving a strong and scintillating display of prismatic colours. Many other stones have been used to simulate diamonds. At the lower end of the pecking order glass or pastes are used in costume jewellery. Even better colourless quartz, known as rock crystal or rhinestone is a natural glass. There is also for example, natural or synthetic white sapphire, zirconia or moissanite. The latter two synthetics are really undetectable to the naked eye without instruments. Stones set in jewellery which are described as diamonds at good quality fine art auctions or specialist auctions have usually been tested and may even be sold with a certificate. Prospective buyers may also request a pre-sale condition report which should provide all of the technical details relating to the cut, clarity, colour and weight(s) of the stones and any faults or damages. This brings us to, what is known in the trade as the four Cs, that is cut, colour, clarity and carat weight. These are the basic factors which affect diamond prices. Of course an object of jewellery has many other determinants to take into account such as style, period, setting, the precious metals used and their purity etc. not to mention the complexities of the market. Here I will provide enough examples from

sales for the reader to get a feel for the market and prices as distinct from values. Subscribers who wish to carry out further research, have free access to our Price Guide Database at www.antiques-info.co.uk which contains many more thousands of jewellery sales as well as sales from all other categories of antiques and collecting.

Cut

The term 'cut' can quite distinctly be used to describe the shape as well as the faceting arrangement of a stone. In my book *Silver and Jewellery Prices at UK Auctions* (see pages 6 & 7) **Appendix 1** contains both the images, top and side views of a selection of the most widely used gem cuttings in jewellery making. Briefly these are:

1. **Briolet cut:** tear-shaped with triangular facets.
2. **Baguette cut:** a rectangular type of cut used with smaller diamonds.
3. **Cabochon cut:** a simple smooth gem cutting in various shapes, without faceting, more common in antique jewellery.
4. **Brilliant cut:** the classic diamond shape, used from the eighteenth century to enhance the refractive properties of a gemstone. This cut has 58 facets.
5. **Step cut:** rectangular or square cuts in a series of sloping steps, used more to enhance a stone's colour, rather than its refractive properties.
6. **Rose cut:** from the seventeenth century, has a flat base and triangular facets, usually 16 or 24.

There are other terms such as princess cut or marquise cut but these usually refer more to shape. If the reader requires further information about cutting and in particular how a 'rough' diamond is cut and polished they might like to visit www.24carat.co.uk

Colour

Colour is a very important determinant of price. It is commonly believed that all diamonds are white although strictly we should say colourless. In fact most diamonds show at least a trace of colour and some are quite deeply coloured. A diamond's colour should not be confused with its ability to disperse white light into all of the colours of the rainbow. Diamonds of course sparkle and flash and shimmer like sun and wind playing on the surface of water. However the actual body colour is the true colour of the stone if it were not faceted. There is an international standard grading system based on the Gemmological Institute of America. (G.I.A.) European terminology sometimes differs but the grades are the same. These grades go from the letter D, being the finest white or colourless diamond, through the alphabet to the S-Z range known as Dark Cape. After the H grade diamonds are slightly tinted and then tinted with increasing colour (yellow) through to R. Frequently an auction description may for example give a colour range such as M-N. It is virtually impossible to differentiate between the first four colour grades of D-G. Even H and I appear colourless to the naked eye and here we are talking about grades that have been measured using instruments. Of course our own colour perception can vary from individual to individual. When mounted, small diamonds down to J and even K will also usually appear colourless. For a full colour chart visit www.24carat.co.uk



20 Aquamarine dress ring, large step cut stone in a Tiffany style diamond set mount and diamond set shank. Gorrings, Lewes. Apr 07. HP: £1,800. ABP: £2,117.



21 18ct white gold, emerald and diamond mounted cluster ring, emerald-cut emerald claw-set within a surround of brilliant-cut diamonds. Bearn's, Exeter. Jun 05. HP: £1,750. ABP: £2,058.



22 Three stone diamond ring, brilliant cut stones approx 1.5cts total, claw-set in white gold. Andrew Hartley, Ilkley, W Yorks. Feb 06. HP: £1,700. ABP: £1,999.



23 Diamond set cluster ring, set to the centre with two old cut diamonds, each approx 0.75ct, stylised surround of brilliant and marquise cut diamonds, claw set in white metal to the plain hoop, stamped 'IRID PLAT', weight 7gms. Halls Fine Art, Shrewsbury. Mar 06. HP: £1,700. ABP: £1,999.



24 Early 20thC Art Deco white gold baguette sapphire and old cut diamond cushioned marquise shaped ring, four central millgrain set diamonds vertically flanked by 3 further examples spaced by sapphires, channel set sapphire shoulders, total weight of diamonds approx 3ct. Fieldings, West Hagley, Wors.. Jun 05. HP: £1,680. ABP: £1,976.



25 Old cushion cut diamond and pink sapphire crossover ring, diamond set shoulders, set in 18ct gold, size L½. Sworders, Stansted Mountfitchet. Jul 05. HP: £1,500. ABP: £1,764.



26 Dress ring, set of 3 brilliant cut diamonds in platinum mount. Lots Road Auctions, Chelsea. Apr 06. HP: £1,500. ABP: £1,764.



27 18ct gold daisy ring set with seven diamonds, approx 0.25ct each. John Taylors, Louth. Dec 05. HP: £1,450. ABP: £1,705.



28 Eighteen carat gold diamond cluster ring, seven brilliant diamonds, traditional flower head cluster setting, approx 1.7 carats. Great Western Auctions, Glasgow. Jan 07. HP: £1,450. ABP: £1,705.



29 Multi-stone diamond ring, principal stone approx 1.47cts, scattered surround of baguette, round/marquise stones, claw set, triple band shank, white gold. Gorrings, Lewes. Dec 06. HP: £1,400. ABP: £1,646.



30 Diamond 3 stone twist ring, central brilliant stone approx 3/4 carat flanked by two 1/2 carat brilliant diamonds, and additional diamonds set to the shank. Great Western Auctions, Glasgow. Feb 07. HP: £1,400. ABP: £1,646.



31 Edwardian marquise diamond cluster ring set with double row emeralds & diamonds, yellow coloured metal. Kent Auction Galleries, Folkestone. May 07. HP: £1,400. ABP: £1,646.



32 Three stone ring, central sapphire (probably Verneuil) flanked by 2 diamonds 0.70ct approx each, claw set in yellow metal to yellow metal shank, 4.7g. Golding Young & Co, Grantham. Feb 06. HP: £1,350. ABP: £1,587.

Prices quoted are actual hammer prices (HP) and the Approximate Buyer's Price (ABP) includes an average premium of 15% + VAT.



33 Sapphire/diamond cluster ring, marquise cut sapphire, surround of pave set diamonds and further surround of brilliant cut diamonds in leaf shaped millegrain setting, unmarked white metal, size O. Gorrings, Lewes. Sep 05. HP: £1,300. ABP: £1,529.



34 Gold cluster ring set with blue sapphire surrounded by 13 old cut diamonds, no hallmark, acid tested 18ct, sapphire approx 4cts, diamonds approx 0.12cts each, total diamond content 1.56cts approx. Boldon Auction Galleries, Tyne & Wear. Nov 05. HP: £1,300. ABP: £1,529.



35 Three stone diamond ring, brilliant cut stones approx 1.4cts, claw set on 18ct yellow gold shank. Hartleys, Ilkley. Feb 07. HP: £1,300. ABP: £1,529.

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36
Edwardian gold diamond 5 stone ring, with 5 rose cut diamonds together approx 1.75 carats. *Great Western Auctions, Glasgow. Mar 06. HP: £1,300. ABP: £1,529.*



37
18ct white gold marquise diamond ring. *Charterhouse Auctioneers, Sherborne. Feb 07. HP: £1,300. ABP: £1,529.*



38
Aquamarine and diamond set ring. *George Kidner, Lymington. Jan 06. HP: £1,250. ABP: £1,470.*



39
Sapphire/diamond cluster ring, pale oval sapphire collet set within a border of old brilliant cut diamonds, 18ct yellow gold shank. *Andrew Hartley, Ilkley, W Yorks. Feb 06. HP: £1,250. ABP: £1,470.*



40
Platinum and diamond ring, lozenge shaped setting with nine old cut stones of mixed size. (size O but shank cut) *Cheffins, Cambridge. Apr 05. HP: £1,200. ABP: £1,411.*



41
Emerald and diamond ring, principal stone approx 2cts, surround of twelve millegrain set diamonds, approx 1ct total, 18ct gold, size O½. *Gorringes, Lewes. Jun 07. HP: £1,200. ABP: £1,411.*



42
Three-stone diamond ring, modern brilliant-cut stones in white metal claw settings, yellow metal shank marked 'Plat' and 18ct, 1.30ct approx. *Gorringes, Bexhill. Dec 05. HP: £1,200. ABP: £1,411.*



43
Two stone diamond ring, two old brilliant cut stones approx 1.7cts total, 18ct gold cross-over shank. *Hartleys, Ilkley. Aug 06. HP: £1,200. ABP: £1,411.*



44
Lady's emerald and diamond ring, oval emerald, approx 11 x 9mm, surrounded by 12 brilliant cut diamonds, total weight approx 2.00 carats, white gold settings, yellow gold shank, 18ct h/m, size L or 5.3/4 US. (6.4g) *A F Brock & Co Ltd, Stockport. Aug 05. HP: £1,150. ABP: £1,352.*



45
Fourteen carat white gold aquamarine and diamond cluster ring. *Great Western Auctions, Glasgow. Aug 06. HP: £1,150. ABP: £1,352.*



46
Three stone diamond ring, central diamond of approx 0.70ct, flanked by a further diamond to either side of approx 0.32ct, all claw set in white metal to carved gallery and plain hoop, stamped indistinctly, weight 2.8gm. *Halls Fine Art, Shrewsbury. Jun 07. HP: £1,150. ABP: £1,352.*



47
18ct gold 3 stone diamond ring. *Charterhouse Auctioneers, Sherborne. Aug 07. HP: £1,150. ABP: £1,352.*



48
18ct gold Art Deco style diamond cluster ring. *John Taylors, Louth. Dec 05. HP: £1,100. ABP: £1,293.*



49
Lady's 5 stone diamond ring, old cut graduated stones, centre stone approx 0.70 cts, chip on one of the kite facets, 2 stones approx 0.38 cts, 2 stones approx 0.27 cts, pairs small old cut stones between each, total weight approx 2 cts, gold, stamped 18ct, size O, insurance valuation dated 1999 giving clarity as SI1 & colour as J/K. *A F Brock & Co Ltd, Stockport. Aug 07. HP: £1,100. ABP: £1,293.*



50
Modern 18ct white gold mounted sapphire/diamond oval cluster ring, central cushion shaped Ceylon sapphire approx 9 x 7mm, surrounded by 14 brilliant cut diamonds. *Canterbury Auction Galleries, Kent. Dec 05. HP: £1,050. ABP: £1,235.*



51
White metal ring, set three diamonds in an open work setting. *Locke & England, Leamington Spa. Nov 06. HP: £1,050. ABP: £1,235.*



52
Three stone diamond ring, 3 brilliant cut stones approx 1.35cts total, platinum shank. *Hartleys, Ilkley. Feb 07. HP: £1,000. ABP: £1,176.*

Clarity

Clarity is the most important factor affecting quality and hence price. At the extremes clarity can produce a brilliant diamond or a dull and lifeless stone. Clarity means clearness i.e. the ability to pass light without obstruction or absorption. Any inclusions, cleavage, cracks or natural features inside the stone as well as defects or the surface will neutralise to some extent, a stone's clarity. Geologically an inclusion is a solid fragment, liquid globule or pocket of gas enclosed in a mineral or rock. Not all are visible to the naked eye or indeed to a X10 loupe. A GIA grading standard now exists and has become an international standard. This may appear in auction descriptions or should appear on a condition report. Grades commence at IF, internally flawless, or loupe clean, through VVS1. Very, very small inclusions, to VVS2, then VS1 and VS2, to SI1 and SI2 indicating small inclusions. Even down to this grade these inclusions are not visible. In the lower grades, being I1 to I3 under the GIA system or P1-P3 (piqué) under UK terminology, grades go from barely visible to very easily visible inclusions at P3. Beyond diamonds may be heavily spotted to the point of rejection when they do not achieve gem standard. It is common to see descriptions at auction which embrace a grade range such as SI1-SI2 or P1-P2. The IF to VS range are the luxury grades and SI1-SI2 should show no discernable lack of brilliance. P1-P3 stones should be bright and attractive. Piqué is French meaning 'pricked'.

Carat Weight

Carat weight has nothing to do with quality. In practice the rarer diamonds are the larger diamonds. The carat traditionally, but not necessarily historically appears to have been derived from the locust or carab bean. There was at least two different standards until, in 1914 the metric carat was defined as 1/5th of a gram. It is virtually impossible to establish accurately the weight of a mounted diamond. For round diamonds the weight may be estimated by measuring the diameter and preferably also, the depth. Accurate measuring can produce results to a tolerance of 1-2%. Measuring the diameter only is less precise. For other shapes it is difficult but there are specialised gauges such as the Leveridge gauge with a booklet of conversion tables. There is a weight/diameter ratio for modern round brilliant cut diamonds which give an approximation to carat size. See www.24carat.co.uk. A diamond of 2.4mm in diameter has an approximate carat weight of 0.05. In a typical modern channel-set half eternity ring with ten stones the total approximate weight would be 0.5 carats or half a carat. A single stone of 5.2mm diameter would weigh 0.5 carats. A single stone with a diameter of 6.5mm is equal to one carat, 8.2mm gives two carats and so on.

Actual Weight

Sometimes auction descriptions give the actual weight of a ring in grammes even though it may contain stones. This should give the buyer some indication of quality. In other cases it can be much more useful, and of course the actual weight of precious metals in jewellery, such as chains and alberts has to be quoted so that the buyer can judge value. Recently I came across a platinum wedding band for sale which was

estimated at £180-£260. Its weight was given as 13.19 grammes. See *Info News* pages for the latest precious metal scrap prices. At the time of writing platinum scrap stands at £16.71 per gramme so a quick calculation gives a scrap value of £220. The actual metal price for platinum now stands at £22.554 pushing the potential value up to over £297 so at a guess I expect this ring to at least reach its top estimate which, with added premium could produce a buyer's price of £300. Incidentally 13.19 grammes is very heavy for a wedding ring but it is platinum and an extra large 'T' finger size although it isn't a man's wedding ring.

Treated Gemstones

Buyers should be aware that many coloured gemstones have historically been treated to enhance appearance. There are many methods still currently used to improve both transparency as well as colour. For example rubies and sapphires may have been heat-treated or oils used to improve the appearance of emeralds. This has long been accepted by the Trade. Stones may even have been stained, coated, or even irradiated. Emeralds may have fractures or fissures filled with resins or oils. Heat treatment is believed to be permanent but it could affect durability. Oiled gemstones may need re-oiled and other treatments may require re-treatment to maintain their appearances.

The Market

The images, descriptions and prices contained in these pages are a small sample only taken from our Gold Services Database at www.antiques-info.co.uk Here I have restricted the examples to the middle market. On page 32, between about £7,500 and £2,000 are some of the finest two, three and five stone diamond engagement rings that anyone could wish for. Number 1 says it all, a two carat central stone flanked by two stones of about a carat each from the classic early twentieth century period. Follow up the other examples in these pages and note how some auctions provide both the diameter and depth measurements, suggesting that they are using a gauge and tables to calculate carat weight as explained on page 34. Other auctions are clearly estimating the carat weight of diamonds but are not providing the measurements. Others only describe the rings as say at 51 or 99. However, as well as the catalogue description, which in itself may be brief, prospective buyers can seek a condition report which should go into fine detail. Often this is available on the auction's website and detail can include information on clarity, any inclusions, colour and on any damage such as chips or insecure claw settings. Wear to the shank or even scratches to the platinum or gold will be mentioned. Sometimes the auction will suggest a polish, or in the case of white gold which may have yellowed in parts, recommend re-rhodium plating.

Whilst condition reports will always give ring sizes, this is not always mentioned in catalogue descriptions except in the case of say, full eternity rings which of course cannot be sized. Most auctions will arrange for a ring to be repaired or renovated or sized. Polishing and sizing is usually not expensive depending on the ring and £20 or so is typical. However expect to pay say £50 if sizing and polishing a platinum shank. This is an excellent service and well worth the money.



53
Emerald and diamond ring, central trapp cut stone, border of brilliant-cut diamonds, baguette shoulders. *Andrew Hartley, Ilkley, W Yorks. Feb 06. HP: £1,000. ABP: £1,176.*



54
Art Deco style 18ct gold five stone diamond ring. *Charterhouse Auctioneers, Sherborne. Feb 07. HP: £980. ABP: £1,152.*



55
Black opal/diamond ring, with central oval black opal, 9.3 x 7.7mm between brilliant, tapered baguette-cut diamond shoulders. *Bearne's, Exeter. Jun 05. HP: £940. ABP: £1,105.*



56
Lady's 3 stone diamond ring, old cut stones, total weight approx 1.40 cts, all in white gold, stamped 18ct, stamp worn. (3.2g) *A F Brock & Co Ltd, Stockport. Aug 05. HP: £940. ABP: £1,105.*



57
Gold, emerald and diamond cluster ring, central 'emerald-cut' emerald pave-set within a border of small diamonds and between diamond-set fleur de lys shoulders. *Bearne's, Exeter. Jun 05. HP: £920. ABP: £1,082.*



58
Victorian five stone diamond ring, in a yellow coloured metal mount. *Charterhouse Auctioneers, Sherborne. Feb 07. HP: £920. ABP: £1,082.*



59
Pearl/diamond ring, crossover design, claw-set with a principal circular-cut diamond and a pearl flanked by 2 further pearls, yellow gold shank with diamond-set shoulders. *Hy. Duke & Son, Dorchester. Aug 06. HP: £900. ABP: £1,058.*



60
Sapphire/diamond cluster ring, pale blue oval cut sapphire claw set within a border of 12 brilliant cut diamonds, diamond weight approx 0.75cts total, 18ct gold shank. *Hartleys, Ilkley. Feb 07. HP: £900. ABP: £1,058.*



61
18ct white gold, sapphire and diamond ring. *Charterhouse Auctioneers, Sherborne. Feb 07. HP: £900. ABP: £1,058.*



62
Diamond set full eternity ring, brilliant cut diamonds, between pairs of smaller diamonds, finger size M. *Sworders, Stansted Mountfitchet. Feb 07. HP: £860. ABP: £1,011.*



63
Diamond 3-tier cluster ring, set in 18ct gold, diamonds approx 2.30cts in total. *Gorringes, Lewes. Jan 05. HP: £850. ABP: £999.*



64
18ct white gold five stone diamond ring. *Charterhouse Auctioneers, Sherborne. Feb 06. HP: £850. ABP: £999.*



65
18ct gold crossover diamond & pearl set ring, principal diamond approx 1 ct. *Tring Market Auctions, Herts. Apr 05. HP: £820. ABP: £964.*



66
Art Deco ruby and old cut diamond panel ring, set in white metal (tests platinum) size Q. *Sworders, Stansted Mountfitchet. Apr 05. HP: £820. ABP: £964.*



67
Edward VII 18ct gold mounted opal/diamond ring, three circular cabochon cut fiery white opals surrounded by 29 old cut diamonds. *Canterbury Auction Galleries, Kent. Oct 05. HP: £820. ABP: £964.*



68
Lady's 18ct white gold engagement/dress ring set 5 large diamonds. *Denhams, Warnham, Sussex. Jan 06. HP: £820. ABP: £964.*



69
Regency gold snuff ring, box set central emerald, within diamond set band, pierced and chased with dolphins, over a plume shoulder. *Rosebery's, London. Jun 05. HP: £800. ABP: £941.*



70
Aquamarine and diamond cluster ring, oval aquamarine surrounded by miniature brilliant-cut diamonds in a white metal basket setting, 18ct gold shank. *Gorringes, Bexhill. Dec 05. HP: £800. ABP: £941.*

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71
18ct gold diamond cluster ring set with five central baguette cut diamonds.
John Taylors, Louth. Dec 05. HP: £800. ABP: £941.



72
Opal/diamond cluster ring, 1.15ct approx (diamonds).
Gorringes, Bexhill. Feb 06. HP: £800. ABP: £941.



73
Yellow metal ring set central sapphire with eight diamonds either side in a finger line style, stamped 750.
Locke & England, Leamington Spa. Mar 06. HP: £800. ABP: £941.



74
Platinum diamond cluster ring, 7 brilliant cut diamonds in a round cluster setting, two additional diamond set to each shoulder, together approx 2.13 cts.
Great Western Auctions, Glasgow. Nov 06. HP: £800. ABP: £941.



75
Lady's yellow gold ring, stamped 750, set with 14 diamonds and 6 sapphires.
Locke & England, Leamington Spa. Nov 06. HP: £800. ABP: £941.



76
Platinum mounted and all diamond set ring, lozenge shaped face set with nine brilliant cut diamonds, total weight approx 1ct.
Canterbury Auction Galleries, Kent. Jun 07. HP: £800. ABP: £941.



77
Marquise diamond ring, central marquise claw set diamond border, with four brilliant cut diamonds to each shoulder, 18ct white gold shank, size L 1/2.
Hartleys, Ilkley. Jun 07. HP: £800. ABP: £941.



78
Five stone old cut diamond half hoop ring, one stone deficient, set in 18ct gold, total approx 1.65ct, size L 1/2.
Sworders, Stansted Mountfitchet. Nov 05. HP: £780. ABP: £917.



79
Five stone diamond ring, graduated old brilliant cut stones claw set on 18ct gold shank.
Hartleys, Ilkley. Aug 06. HP: £780. ABP: £917.



80
Lady's antique ring, elongated cluster, poss. Georgian, cut blue/green tourmaline to centre, stone very slightly scuffed, old cut diamond of approx 0.25 cts above and below, these 3 being totally surrounded by sixteen old cut diamonds of approx 0.08 cts each, total diamond weight approx 1.78 cts, silver settings with yellow gold shank, tested 15ct, size M.
A F Brock & Co Ltd, Stockport. Aug 05. HP: £750. ABP: £882.



81
Sapphire and diamond three stone ring, round cut sapphire flanked by diamonds, each approx .36cts, platinum.
Gorringes, Lewes. Jun 07. HP: £750. ABP: £882.



82
Victorian sapphire/diamond five stone ring, two round sapphires set between three old brilliant cut diamonds, scroll set on yellow gold shank.
Hartleys, Ilkley. Jun 06. HP: £740. ABP: £870.



83
14ct white gold three stone cabochon emerald and old brilliant cut diamond ring, engraved shoulders, size K 1/2, total diamond weight approx 0.50ct.
Sworders, Stansted Mountfitchet. Apr 05. HP: £720. ABP: £846.



84
Aquamarine/diamond ring, central emerald cut aquamarine claw set within diamond encrusted shoulders, 18ct gold shank.
Hartleys, Ilkley. Dec 06. HP: £720. ABP: £846.

Prices quoted are actual hammer prices (HP) and the Approximate Buyer's Price (ABP) includes an average premium of 15% + VAT.



85
Sapphire and diamond oval cluster ring, set in 18ct white gold, size K, total diamond weight approx 1.3cts.
Sworders, Stansted Mountfitchet. Nov 05. HP: £700. ABP: £823.



86
Emerald/diamond dress ring, three oval-cut emeralds in collet settings surrounded by brilliant-cut diamonds in a yellow metal collet setting, pierced bifurcated shoulders, 18ct yellow metal shank.
Gorringes, Bexhill. Dec 05. HP: £700. ABP: £823.

Another classic ring is the two stone cross-over setting. See examples at **3, 6, 9, 25, 43** etc. **3** is just magnificent with two equal stones of 1.5 carats each with additional shoulders set small diamonds. Half hoops can go up to seven and sometimes more diamonds as at **14** but the real classic for me is the magic five stone ring. The first example is at **10** showing clearly the larger central stone flanked by a smaller pair of diamonds and flanked again by a slightly smaller pair. See further examples at **16, 49, 58, 68, 79, 82, 104, 106** etc. I like **49** in particular. Notice that between the main old cut stones are pairs of small old cut stones. Brock's of Stockport give full details of this fine old ring in their catalogue. It has a good clarity rating and although the colour range is J/K and tinted yellow, this ring, containing about two carats of diamonds was surely a gift at under £1,300, despite a chip to one of the kite facets on the main stone. For another lovely Victorian ring see **58**. At **78** is a further example of old cut diamonds here totalling 1.65 carats but with one stone missing. At **82** is a further Victorian example, this time with two sapphires. Old cut stones appear frequently in these pages. Sometimes they are described as round old brilliant cut, as at **12** or **18**, or as just old cut as at **4** or **49**. Some auctions only describe rings as Victorian or Edwardian, which suggests old cutting. Old brilliant cutting dates from the eighteenth century. Other rings here look to be old and I suspect are, but the auction provides no guide whatsoever as to age, which can be irritating, but frequently marks are worn away. Sometimes the full title 'old European cut' is used or 'old mine cut'. The diamonds are round as in modern brilliant cutting but they are hand-worked and as a consequence are far removed from the geometric perfection of machine cutting. There are still 58 facets which permits broader reflective bands of brilliance to return back up to the the top portion of the diamond, known as the table facet. The hand cutting is very obvious indeed when examined through a X10 or X20 jeweller's loupe and there is, as expected, considerable variations in the sizes of the facets. You may or may not prefer old jewellery but it is my opinion that old cutting gives to diamonds a personality and a desirability which is missing in modern cutting, some might say a beauty reflecting the bygone era they represent. The classic period of English jewellery commences in about 1880 and ends, perhaps at the outbreak of the First World War in 1914. I suspect that several of the rings shown in these pages represent this period. Take for example **67**, unmistakably old, or **100, 104, 106, 112** etc. **106** is typical at about £700 (0.85 carats) of the kind of price many pay for a modern ring. Try buying new today the classic boat-shaped diamond ring at **115**. Jewellers' windows are full of new rings at anywhere between £500 and a £1,000. However you would be very lucky to get even 0.5 carats unless you pay about £800-£1,000. Window shopping would suggest that new prices are about double the cost of buying at auction. Compare the rings here and on our website with the high street. A word of warning. This is a simplification of the market. Readers should always take into account all of the other factors relating to prices which have been discussed in these pages.