

The Mandalay Ruby

Auction

Tuesday, October 18, 1988 at approximately 3 pm

Exhibition in New York:

Wednesday, October 12	1 pm to 4:45 pm
Thursday, October 13	10 am to 4:45 pm
Friday, October 14	10 am to 4:45 pm
Saturday, October 15	10 am to 4:45 pm
Sunday, October 16	1 pm to 5 pm
Monday, October 17	10 am to 4:45 pm
Tuesday, October 18	10 am to 12 noon

Exhibition in Los Angeles:

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September 17 and 18, 1988
By appointment (213) 274-0340

This Ruby is lot 422
in the sale of Magnificent Jewelry,
catalogue 5752 "MYSTERY"

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This catalogue, as amended by any posted notices or oral announcements during the sale, is Sotheby's Inc's and the Consignor's entire agreement with the purchaser relative to the property listed herein. The following Conditions of Sale, the Terms of Guarantee and any glossary contained herein are the complete and only terms and conditions on which all property is offered for sale. The property will be offered by us as agent for the Consignor, unless the catalogue indicates otherwise.

1. The authenticity of the Authorship of property listed in the catalogue is guaranteed as stated in the Terms of Guarantee; except as provided therein all property is sold "AS IS," and neither we nor the Consignor make any warranties or representations of the correctness of the catalogue or other description of the physical condition, size, quality, rarity, importance, provenance, exhibitions, literature or historical relevance of the property and no statement anywhere, whether oral or written, shall be deemed such a warranty or representation. Prospective bidders should inspect the property before bidding to determine its condition, size and whether or not it has been repaired or restored. We and the Consignor make no representation and warranties as to whether the purchaser acquires any copyrights, including but not limited to any reproduction rights, in the property.

2. A premium of 10% of the successful bid price will be added thereto and is payable by the purchaser as part of the total purchase price.

3. We reserve the right to withdraw any property before sale.

4. Unless otherwise announced by the auctioneer, all bids are per lot as numbered in the catalogue.

5. We reserve the right to reject any bid. The highest bidder acknowledged by the auctioneer will be the purchaser. In the event of any dispute between bidders, or in the event of doubt on our part as to the validity of any bid, the auctioneer will have the final discretion either to determine the successful bidder or to reoffer and resell the article in dispute. If any dispute arises after the sale, our sale record is conclusive. Although in our discretion we will execute order bids or accept telephone bids as a convenience to clients who are not present at auctions, we are not responsible for any errors or omissions in connection therewith.

6. If the auctioneer decides that any opening bid is below the value of the article offered, he may reject the same and withdraw the article from sale, and if, having acknowledged an opening bid, he decides that any advance thereafter is insufficient, he may reject the advance.

7. On the fall of the auctioneer's hammer, title to the offered lot will pass to the highest bidder acknowledged by the auctioneer, subject to fulfillment by such bidder of all the conditions set forth herein, and such bidder thereupon (a) assumes full risk and responsibility therefor, (b) will sign a confirmation of purchase thereof, and (c) will pay the full purchase price therefor or such part as we may require. In addition to other remedies available to us by law, we reserve the right to impose a late charge of 1½% per month of the total purchase price if payment is not made in accordance with the conditions set forth herein. All property must be removed from our premises by the purchaser at his expense not later than 3 business days following its sale and, if it is not so removed, (i) a handling charge of 1% of the purchase price per month until its removal will be payable to us by the purchaser, with a minimum of 5% for any property not so removed within 60 days after the sale, and (ii) we may send the purchased property to a public warehouse for the account, risk and expense of the purchaser. If any applicable conditions herein are not complied with by the purchaser, in addition to other remedies available to us and the Consignor by law, including without limitation the right to hold the purchaser liable for the total purchase price, we at our option

may either (a) cancel the sale, retaining as liquidated damages all payments made by the purchaser or (b) resell the property at public auction without reserve, and the purchaser will be liable for any deficiency, costs, including handling charges, the expenses of both sales, our commission on both sales at our regular rates, all other charges due hereunder and incidental damages. In addition, a defaulting purchaser will be deemed to have granted us a security interest in, and we may retain as collateral security for such purchaser's obligations to us, any property in our possession owned by such purchaser. We shall have all of the rights accorded a secured party under the New York Uniform Commercial Code with respect to such property and we may apply against such obligations all monies held or received by us for the account of, or due from us to, such purchaser. At our option, payment will not be deemed to have been made in full until we have collected funds represented by checks, or, in the case of bank or cashier's checks, we have confirmed their authenticity.

8. Lots marked with □ immediately preceding the lot number are offered subject to a reserve, which is the confidential minimum price below which such lot will not be sold. We may implement such reserves by bidding on behalf of the Consignor. In certain instances, the Consignor may pay us less than the standard commission rate where a lot is "bought-in" to protect its reserve. Where the Consignor is indebted to or has a monetary guarantee from us, and in certain other instances, where we or our affiliated companies may have an interest in the offered lots and the proceeds therefrom other than our commissions, we may bid therefor to protect such interests.

9. Unless exempted by law, the purchaser will be required to pay the combined New York State and local sales tax or any applicable compensating use tax of another state on the total purchase price. The rate of such combined tax is 8¼% in New York City and ranges from 4% to 8¼% elsewhere in New York State.

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11. We are not responsible for the acts or omissions of carriers or packers of purchased lots, whether or not recommended by us. Packing and handling of purchased lots by us is at the entire risk of the purchaser.

12. In no event will our liability to a purchaser exceed the purchase price actually paid.

Notice

No reference to imperfections is made in individual catalogue descriptions of property offered for sale. All lots are sold "AS IS" in accordance with Paragraph 1 of the Conditions of Sale, and we make no representation or warranty as to the condition of any lot sold. We disclaim responsibility for, and prospective bidders should not rely on, any description in the catalogue or any other source, including without limitation any gemological report, of the condition, size or quality of any lot.

Anyone wishing further information on any of the property included in this catalogue may write or call the Jewelry Department (212) 606-7392.

During the auction, a color slide of each lot will be shown as it is sold. This is only to assist the audience and the slide is not meant to represent the actual size, color or quality of the item offered.

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We guarantee the authenticity of Authorship of each lot contained in this catalogue on the terms and conditions set forth below.

1. **Definition of Authorship.** "Authorship" means the identity of the creator, the period, culture, source of origin of the property, as the case may be, as set forth in the **Bold Type Heading** of such catalogue entry.

2. **Guarantee Coverage.** Subject to the exclusions of (i) attributions of paintings, drawings or sculpture executed prior to 1870, and (ii) periods or dates of execution of the property, as explained in Paragraph 5 below, if within five (5) years from the date of the sale of any lot, the original purchaser of record tenders to us a purchased lot in the same condition as when sold through us and it is established that the identification of Authorship (as defined above) of such lot set forth in the **Bold Type Heading** of this catalogue description of such lot (as amended by any posted notices or oral announcements during the sale) is not substantially correct based on a fair reading of the catalogue including the terms of any Glossary contained herein, the sale of such lot will be rescinded and the original purchase price refunded.

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Guide for prospective buyers

Sotheby's encourages buyers to read through the "Conditions of Sale," "Terms of Guarantee" and "Glossary," if any, which appear on the preceding pages. The following definitions and explanations are provided for the convenience of prospective bidders.

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Definition:

A "Reserve" is the confidential minimum price agreed between the seller and us, below which the lot will not ordinarily be sold. On unsold lots, less than the full commission may be paid.

Policy:

All lots marked with ☐ immediately preceding the lot number are being offered subject to a reserve. Our standard advice to sellers is that reserves be set at a percentage of the mean of the estimates, generally somewhat below the low estimate. In no case do we permit a reserve to exceed the high estimate. Estimates for each lot are printed in the catalogue or may be obtained from the expert department.

Implementation:

We bid as agent for the seller to protect reserves. The auctioneer may open the bidding on any lot by placing a bid on behalf of the seller. The auctioneer may further bid on behalf of the seller, up to the amount of the reserve, by placing successive or consecutive bids for a lot, or by placing bids in response to other bidders.

Owned Property

Definition:

"Owned property" is property which, at the time it is offered for sale at auction, is owned solely or partially by us or an affiliate (and in the sale of which we are acting as a principal and not an agent).

Policy:

The purchase of property by us for sale at auction is an insignificant part of our overall business. Direct purchases are only made at the request of a client and, in these cases, only after standard commission sales have been rejected by the client. Reserve prices of property owned by us are set on the same or a lower basis than property sold for other consignors, that is, a reserve will usually be set below the low estimate provided in this catalogue and in no case will it be higher than the high estimate. All property owned by us will be identified in the catalogue as "Property of Sotheby's" or a similar recognizable designation. In some cases, the prior source of property will be identified, e.g., "Property from the Estate of John Doe sold by order of the present owner, Sotheby's."

Implementation:

Bidding by us to protect reserves on property is effected in the same way as bidding to protect reserves on property consigned by an outside seller.

Buyer's Premium

A premium of 10% will be added to the successful bid price of all property sold by us, whether consigned to us or "owned property" as defined above, and whether picked up or delivered, and this premium is payable by all purchasers without exception.

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Bidding at all auctions is by paddle. Please register for your paddle at the entrance to the salesroom. If your bid is successful at the auction, your paddle number will be called out by the auctioneer, or you will be asked to sign a bid confirmation card upon the fall of the hammer. Unless you have previously established credit or made payment arrangements, you will not be permitted to take delivery of your purchases until after your check has cleared. To avoid such delays, you may apply for a Check Acceptance Account before attending your first auction by filling out an application available from our cashier.

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Unless other arrangements have been agreed upon, we must ask buyers to remove their purchases by 5 pm on the tenth business day following the sale. Purchases not removed within this time will be subject to a handling charge, as outlined in paragraph 7 of the "Conditions of Sale." The packing and handling of purchased lots by our employees is undertaken solely as a courtesy to our clients, and in the case of fragile articles, will be undertaken only at our discretion. In no event will we be liable for damage to glass or frames, regardless of the cause.

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Sotheby's Art Transport Department and the staff at any of our regional offices can make all the arrangements necessary for shipping purchases to you. There is no charge for this service, but actual shipping expenses and packing and insurance charges are payable by the client. For further information please call Laura Bowman at (212) 606-7511.

Guide for prospective sellers

If you have property you wish to sell at auction, please call the appropriate expert department to arrange for a consultation. (A list of expert departments appears in the front of this catalogue.) If you are unsure which department would handle your property, or if you have a variety of objects to sell, please call one of our general representatives:

Fine Arts Representative
David Norman, (212) 606-7120

Decorative Arts Representative
Stuart Whitehurst, (212) 606-7409

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You may bring your property—or photographs if it is not portable—directly to our galleries where our experts will give you auction estimates and advice. There is no charge for this service, but we request that you telephone ahead for an appointment. Inspection hours are 9:30 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday.

Our experts will provide a free preliminary auction estimate subject to a final auction estimate after first-hand inspection, if you send a clear photograph of each item, or a representative group of photographs if you have a large collection. Please be sure to include the dimensions, artist's signature or maker's mark, medium, physical condition, and any other relevant information.

Evaluations of property can also be made at your home. The usual fees for such visits outside of Manhattan are: other

New York City boroughs/\$100 per half-day; elsewhere in North America/\$250 per day. (Travel expenses are additional.) These fees may be rebated if you consign your property for sale at Sotheby's.

Experts from our Beverly Hills office are available for inspection visits in the western United States. For more information please call (213) 274-0340.

Standard Commission Rates

Sellers are charged 10% of the successful bid price for each lot sold for \$5,000 or more. A commission of 15% is charged for each lot sold for \$1,000 or more but less than \$5,000, and 20% for each lot sold for less than \$1,000. There is a minimum handling charge of \$100 for any lot sold. If your property fails to reach the reserve price and remains unsold, you pay a reduced commission rate of 5% of the reserve figure. The minimum handling charge for any object that does not sell is \$75. (For more information about reserves, please refer to "Reserves" in "Guide to Prospective Buyers.")

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For further information regarding qualifications and terms, please call Mitchell Zuckerman at (212) 606-3008.

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The Mandalay Ruby

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1988

AT APPROXIMATELY 3 PM

BURMA RUBY MINES DISTRICT



Map reprinted from Burma Gazetteer, Ruby Mines District, Volume A, compiled by E. C. S. George, 1915.

A Burma Ruby Treasure: The Mandalay Ruby

Gem dealers and connoisseurs have been talking about this magnificent Burma ruby for more than a hundred years. Mined in Upper Burma, the source of the finest rubies, this faceted stone is an alluring royal red and its size is absolutely extraordinary. There is no faceted ruby of its size and quality in any royal treasury.

In mining, the old days are the good days. It is a peculiar geological phenomenon that the rubies nearest the surface of the earth are the largest and their color is the strongest and purest. As one starts digging deeper into the ground, the crystals diminish in size and the color becomes less pure and less saturated. This phenomenon occurs, perhaps, because of the increased pressure at greater depth. In any case, as the mine continues to be used, the crystal structure is broken down, both in size and color strength. One would suspect immediately that a ruby of this size has a provenance going back at least a hundred years to the heyday of Burma ruby production.

Edwin W. Streeter, the most noted gem expert of the late nineteenth century, confirms this view: *"The two most important rubies ever known in Europe were brought into this country [England] during the year 1875. One was a rich colored stone, cushion shaped, weighing 37 carats; the other, a blunt drop shape of 47¹/₁₆ carats . . . it is questionable however if the London market would ever have seen these truly royal gems but for the necessities of the Burmese Government. In Burmah the sale of these two rubies caused intense excitement; a military guard was considered necessary to escort the persons carrying the parcel to the vessel. Two such rubies are not to be found in any European regalia."*

On Thursday, May 7, 1896, the large stone, now known as The Mandalay Ruby, was sold at auction in London. It was described at the time as weighing $46\frac{3}{4}$ carats* (actual metric carats 48.019) "*believed to be the largest fine cut Burmah ruby known.*" It came from the highly important stock of gem dealers Ridpath & Ridpath. The buyer was reputed to be an important Indian gem connoisseur acting on behalf of a royal Indian family. In that era, the most powerful gem buyers were Indian princes. Given the size and quality of this ruby, it is not surprising that it should have passed through the auction rooms.

As Jean-Baptiste Tavernier, the seventeenth-century explorer and gemologist, observed, "When a ruby exceeds six carats and is perfect, it is sold for whatever is asked for it."

In the seventeenth century, most of the large "rubies" were in fact red stones that were spinel. These were called Balas rubies. The "Black Prince's Ruby" which is set above the Cullinan II Diamond on the front of the British Imperial Crown, is not a ruby, but a spinel. Similarly, the Timur ruby, weighing 352.50 carats, was discovered to be a red spinel and is now in Buckingham Palace.

*Today's carat weight has been standardized since April 1, 1914 as 200 milligrams. This ruby weighs 48.019 carats or 9603.8 milligrams. In the late nineteenth century in England, however, one carat was equal to 205.4090 milligrams. The ruby sold in 1896 weighed 46.75 carats or 9602.87 milligrams and is therefore the same stone offered here.

$$\frac{\text{old carats}}{46.75} \times 1.0272 = \frac{\text{new carats}}{48.02}$$

Early rubies from the Orient were almost always cabochon in shape. If these rubies were faceted, they often would reveal flaws and discolorations. It is not only that this stone exceeds the size of any known gem-quality faceted Burma ruby, but the great purity of the stone is extraordinary.

The stone is in a brooch mounting set with old-mine diamonds. The ruby is in remarkable condition which gives us further clues as to where this stone has spent the last hundred years. Great stones in India in particular, and in the East in general, were carefully guarded in state treasuries. Tavernier commented that the Moghul treasuries were rarely opened for viewing and the most valuable gems were rarely worn. One can imagine this ruby—one of the largest and most extraordinary Burmese gems—reposing in secret and rarely worn for nearly a century until it is offered for sale today.

Benjamin Zucker

Benjamin Zucker is the president of Precious Stones Company. He is the author of *How To Buy And Sell Gems* (Times Books), *Gems & Jewels* (Thames & Hudson) and most recently *Islamic Rings and Gems: The Zucker Collection*, Ed. Derek J. Content (Philip Wilson Publishers).

Mr. Zucker followed his grandfather, Gutman Gutwirth and his father, Charles Zucker into the family business. He is a graduate gemologist and a graduate of the Harvard Business School.

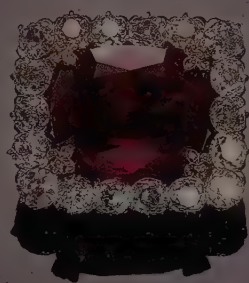
□ 422 **The Mandalay Ruby**

The cushion-shaped ruby weighing 48.02 carats, framed by 18 old-mine diamonds within a gold and platinum brooch mounting, the corners with small diamond-set *fleur-de-lys* motifs.

Accompanied by Gübelin report #8712042 stating that the ruby is of Burmese origin, and a comment to the report stating:

"Large, transparent faceted Burma rubies of gem quality are rare, all the more in a fine cutting as the present specimen shows. The combination of pleasant shape and proportions, fine color, transparency and luminosity, make it an exceptional gemstone. It is the largest faceted, transparent Burma ruby of gem quality tested up to date by our laboratory. In remembrance of its Burmese origin, this ruby has been named after the city of Mandalay: THE MANDALAY RUBY."

Estimate on request

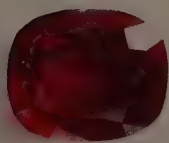


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(ruby unmounted)

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