

**Séminaire SOLEIL
OUVERT A TOUS**

Le diamant bleu de Louis XIV redécouvert : quand la science remontent le fil de la passion des gemmes de Louis XIV

*(The "French Blue" diamond : where scanning and spectroscopy probe the
diamond passion of King Louis XIV of France)*

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Invité par Anne-Marie FLANK

**Lundi 26 septembre à 14h00
Grand Amphi SOLEIL**

A previously unknown lead cast of the "French Blue" diamond was discovered at the Muséum national d'histoire naturelle in Paris. This blue diamond, the largest ever, was purchased by king Louis IX of France and recut in 1672-1673. Alas, the diamond was stolen in 1792 and will never resurface. In 1812, a smaller diamond appeared on the London market. Another showed up in St Petersburg. Is one of both the "French Blue" recut ? And who recut it ? Scanning of both the lead cast and of the Hope diamond will give a definitive answer to those questions. Also, archives at the Museum gives names of the probable thieves and illegalrecutters... Also, the measurement of the optical spectroscopy of the Hope diamond allows the virtual reconstruction of the mythic "French Blue" diamond.

First, the natural diamond purchased in India in 1665 can be recreated. We can explain why the diamond was not preempted by the Great Moghul. Thanks to a Bravais-Friedel-Donnay-Harker crystallographic approach, we can also go back to the original diamond that once crystallized in the deep Earth, 2 billions years ago and how it gets its blue color using simulations with the FEFFOPT package. The 1672-1673 Paris recut of the diamond was also reconstructed on the computer. The final diamond shows an amazing brilliance and many optical illusions, especially its color. We will demonstrate that the diamond was cut to provide to the king a "magic instrument" to justify its power of divine rights. The diamond is also a political statement against the Church. In addition, the presence of unusual facets suggests that the cutter has left his name somewhere on the diamond... All of that explains also why the 1812 English cutter created a proof of his illegal recut and donated it to the MNHN in Paris under great secrecy.



Vous êtes cordialement invités au pot qui suivra



Formalités d'entrée : accès libre dans l'amphi du Pavillon d'Accueil. Si la manifestation a lieu dans le Grand Amphi Soleil du Bâtiment Central, merci de vous munir d'une pièce d'identité (à échanger à l'accueil contre un badge d'accès).

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