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JCK
GEM NOTES

MADAGASCAR'S SPECTACULAR TOURMALINE

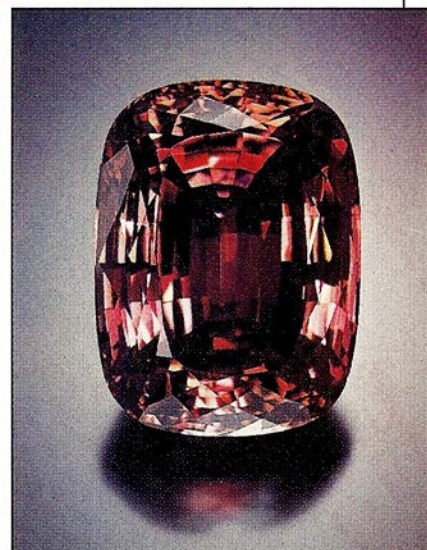
(Cynthia Renee of Fallbrook, Cal., recently allowed JCK to examine and photograph a rare 100-ct.-plus tourmaline from Madagascar. Renee is selling the gem to an undisclosed private buyer, but first wanted to share it with JCK readers.)

It's formidable – 138.76 cts. Its color is striking – a delicate pink-orange that California gem dealer Cynthia Renee likens to the glowing embers of a volcano. And it comes from a relatively obscure gem source – Madagascar, an island in the Indian Ocean off the southeast coast of Africa.

"It" is a tourmaline that has been described as spectacular for its size and color. Though its former place in an old estate obscures its exact origin, the tourmaline is known to have come from Madagascar, an oft-forgotten source of some of the world's finest tourma-

lines. Many of the country's tourmalines come from a pegmatite mine site called Anjanabonoina, which lies near the Mania River about 120 miles southeast of the capital city Antananarivo. Most tourmaline colors are represented here, but collectors especially prize the area's sherry-red rubellites and peach-colored gems.

Madagascar also is one of the world's only sources of Liddicoatite tourmaline, the variety named after the Gemological Institute of America's own Richard T. Liddicoat. Liddicoatite is the predominant variety of



138.76-ct. tourmaline from Madagascar. Gem courtesy of Cynthia Renee, Fallbrook, Cal.; photo by Robert Weldon.

This large slab of Liddicoatite tourmaline with the typical "mercedes" color zoning is from the Anjanabonoina pegmatite in Madagascar. Gem courtesy of Pete Flusser, Los Angeles, Cal.; photo by Robert Weldon.

