

**RUSSIA'S TREASURE
OF
DIAMONDS
AND
PRECIOUS STONES**



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PART I

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№ 45.

Plate XXXI, phot. 45 (full size).

A FULL-EARED DIAMOND DIADEM WITH
A LEUCO-SAPPHIRE.

This piece of exceptional originality is a beautiful specimen of the art of jewellery. Six brilliant ears of rye, gracefully arise from the transparent leuco-sapphire in the centre. The exquisite lightness of composition, combined with great beauty of details and harmony of the borders, allows us to forget a certain emptiness in the front part.

Dimensions: 34×11 cent.

The leuco-sapphire—very pure, yet somewhat cold-shaded of a yellow-wine tint, probably of Ceylon origin.

Weight (according to the ancient Inv.)—37 a. c.

Dimensions: 2,1×1,7×1,15 cent.

Among the diamonds, 37 quite peerless Indian briolets are distinguishable by special beauty. They are of wonderful water, and of very original cutting, with two pointed ends and some facets slightly rounded. Part of the briolets are not perforated and had to be incased from both sides.

Brilliants: excellent Brazilian specimens weighing (after the anc. Inv.)—6 br.—9 c.; 5—6¼; 8—8; 15—11; 24—13¼. 12 stones of medium size and 103 a. c. of small brilliants; 800 roses.

Setting: silver and gold à jour. At the base—a circle of golden culms; work of the beginning of the XIX-th century (epoch Alexander I).

In the Inv. 1898 (№ 125/123) it is said that the diadem was included in 1829, after the decease of Maria Fedorovna, the wife of Paul I.

Inv. 1922—№ 388.