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## **Yale Peabody Museum to feature a significant collection of over 800-carats of spectacular gemstones in David Friend Hall**

*New gem and mineral gallery opens Oct. 23, 2016, coincides with Peabody's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*



The "Yellow Rose" diamond, weighing 77.14 carats, is one of the world's rarest gemstones. On loan from Christie's New York and the collection of Covenant Real Return Partners LLC. Photo credit: © Christie's Images Limited 2016

**New Haven Conn.** — The Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History will present some of the world's most "exquisite" cut gemstones as part of the new David Friend Hall, opening on October 23, 2016. This state-of-the-art gem and mineral gallery will feature [a selection of world-class gems](#) from private collections including a 77-carat fancy yellow diamond and a 75-carat "Classic Burma" sapphire. The temporary presentation of these two exceptional gems courtesy of Christie's will enhance the richness and variety of the display of more than 150 premier mineral specimens with additional gems and jewelry on view as part of the inaugural installation of David Friend Hall.

"We are thrilled to have the opportunity to display these remarkable gemstones," said David Skelly, director of the Yale Peabody Museum. "They add to the fantastic diversity of objects presented in a space that compels us all to think about what they are and how they are formed."

"This phenomenal presentation will include more than 800 carats of unique gemstones, many of which have never before been on public display. With their remarkable size, impressive clarity, and classic depth-of-color, these gems can unequivocally be classified as world class", said C.R. "Cap" Beesley, a renowned gemstone specialist and chair of the Peabody Museum Mineral Board.

"In addition to an exquisite array of phenomenal minerals from around the world, David Friend Hall will feature an exceptional display of outstanding gems and jewelry," said Beesley. "This may be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the public to view one of the most exquisite collections of gems ever assembled in one exhibition. The display will

showcase an unparalleled assemblage of rubies, sapphires, and peridots retrieved from the historic mines of the Far East, as well as diamonds from the African subcontinent.”

The collection of gemstones includes:

- The South African **“Yellow Rose”** diamond, weighing 77.12 carats, is an exceptional gem. Yellow diamonds of this size and quality are among the most prize possessions of gem connoisseurs from around the world, Beesley said. According to the Gemological Institute of America, the vibrancy of the Yellow Rose is so rare that the quantity encountered in GIA laboratories can be counted on one hand.
- “The extraordinary size, clarity, depth of color, and brilliance of the 75.41carat ‘Classic Burma’ (Myanmar) sapphire known as the **‘Blue Dragon™’** make it one of the finest specimens of its kind ever to go on public exhibition”, said Beesley.
- The peridot necklace containing 28 gems, known as **“The Mandalay Queen™”** contains only “Classic Burma” peridots weighing a total of 320.06 carats, including an exceptional center stone weighing 139.49 carats.
- **“The Mandalay Princess™”** necklace and earrings contain 35 “Classic Burma” rubies, with a total weight of 42.55 carats, including a center stone weighing 3.08 carats. These unusual gems originate from Mogok, the remote gem mining area in northern Myanmar also known as the “Valley of Rubies.” All of these stones are 100% natural with no enhancements of any kind. It is extremely rare to find material of this quality that has not been subjected to any heat treatment or clarity enhancement procedure, Beesley said.
- A super gem **45.52-carat “Classic Burma” sapphire** set in a Bulgari pendant with 20 carats of diamonds, suspended from a platinum and diamond Tiffany necklace is on loan from the prominent New York gem merchant Jack Abraham, founder of The Precious Collection.
- Also on exhibit is the famous **Cullinan Blue Diamond Necklace** from the vaults of the Smithsonian. It was manufactured utilizing 9-karat rose-gold with silver top and set with 243 round white diamonds and nine rare blue diamonds, the largest of which is 2.6 carats. The original Cullinan Blue Diamond was the largest rough diamond ever discovered at the time and weighed 3,106.75 carats before it was cut and polished.
- A selection of unique jewelry from the **Cora Miller Collection**, includes a 7.05-carat yellow diamond ring, a 10.08-carat oval Sri Lanka sapphire ring, a black opal and diamond pendant necklace, and a pair of opal earrings accented with tsavorite garnets and yellow diamonds.
- Equally impressive is **“The Empress™,”** an exquisite platinum and diamond necklace containing 28 “Classic Burma” sapphires weighing a total of 108.73 carats created by Molina Fine Jewelers of Phoenix, Arizona.

A selection of certain gemstones will only be on view until Oct. 31, 2016.

For high-res images and additional information about David Friend Hall and the Peabody Museum, visit <http://communications.yale.edu/peabody/gems>

For more information about the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History, visit <http://peabody.yale.edu/>.

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