

Finch & C^o



A VERY RARE SPAR BOX, CUMBRIA, ENGLAND

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CIRCA 1880-1890

BLACK ZINC ORE, QUARTZ & FLUORSPAR

SIZE: 36CMX45CM

LITERATURE

THESE SPAR BOXES WERE BUILT BY VICTORIAN LEAD MINERS FROM MINERAL CRYSTALS FOUND IN CAVITIES AS THEY WORKED THE SEAMS OF LEAD ORE. THE MINERS TOOK GREAT PRIDE IN THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THESE MINERALS AND IT BECAME A TRADITIONAL PASTIME TO MOUNT THEM INTO TOWER, BOXES AND MODELS, OFTEN SUPPLEMENTING THEIR INCOME BY SELLING THEM AT ANNUAL SHOWS.

COMPETITIONS WERE HELD AND PRIZES GIVEN IN THE TOWN HALLS OF THE NORTH PENNINES FOR THE MOST CAREFULLY MADE AND ELABORATE 'SPAR CASES' AND 'SPAR MODELS'.

SEE FINCH & CO CATALOGUE 2002 FOR AN EXAMPLE OF A SPAR TOWER.