

Finch & C^o



A MAGNIFICENT AND RARE LARGE SPECIMEN OF ALUM CONTAINED IN AN ANTIQUE GLASS DOME
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MD 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 48CM HIGH

LITERATURE

ALUM IS A COLOURLESS ASTRINGENT COMPOUND, WHICH IS A HYDRATED DOUBLE SULPHATE OF ALUMINIUM AND POTASSIUM. IT IS USED IN SOLUTION IN DYING AND TANNING.

BEFORE THE ADVENT OF CHEMICAL DYES ALUM WAS AN IMPORTANT AND PRECIOUS COMPOUND USED MAINLY FOR FIXING DYES IN LEATHER. THE LARGE AMOUNT OF ALUM REPRESENTED IN THIS SAMPLE WAS WORTH A CONSIDERABLE SUM IN THE 19TH CENTURY AND EARLIER.

THE LARGE SIZE OF THIS RARE EXAMPLE WOULD HAVE TAKEN MANY WEEKS TO MAKE, LITERALLY GROWING LAYER UPON LAYER VERY GRADUALLY.

THIS PIECE WAS BROUGHT BACK HERE FROM AUSTRALIA AND HAS A LABEL WITH THE LEGEND 'ALUM AUSTRALIA C. 1860'