Finch & Co

SIX ANTIQUE SPECIMENS OF THE DERBYSHIRE FLUORSPAR 'BLUE JOHN'

SIX ANTIQUE SPECIMENS OF THE DERBYSHIRE FLUORSPAR 'BLUE JOHN'
19TH CENTURY
SIZE: 11CM HIGH, 18.5CM WIDE – 4¼ INS HIGH, 7¼ INS WIDE (MAX)

LITERATURE

BLUE JOHN IS CHARACTERISED BY BLUISH PURPLE AND WHITE BANDING AND IS COMPOSED OF CALCIUM FLUORIDE. IT IS A VARIETY OF THE MINERAL FLUORSPAR, WHICH ACQUIRED ITS NAME IN THE 15TH CENTURY FROM ITS PROPERTY OF IMPROVING THE FLUIDITY OF SLAG IN SMELTING OPERATIONS. BLUE JOHN IS MINED AROUND CASTLETON IN NORTH DERBYSHIRE AND HAS BEEN USED AS A SEMI-PRECIOUS ORNAMENTAL STONE FOR MORE THAN TWO CENTURIES.