

# *Finch & C<sup>o</sup>*



## **AN UNUSUAL AND CURIOUS VICTORIAN BASKET MADE OF ALUM CRYSTALS**

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CONTAINED UNDER AN ANTIQUE GLASS DOME, RAISED ON AN EBONISED BASE

CIRCA 1860

SIZE: 33CM HIGH – 13 INS HIGH

## **LITERATURE**

THIS CURIOUS BASKET WOULD HAVE TAKEN MANY WEEKS TO FORM, GROWING LAYER UPON LAYER OF ALUM CRYSTALS  
AROUND A WIREWORK FRAME VERY GRADUALLY.

BEFORE THE ADVENT OF CHEMICAL DYES ALUM WAS AN IMPORTANT COMPOUND USED MAINLY FOR FIXING DYES IN  
LEATHER. ALUM IS A COLOURLESS ASTRINGENT COMPOUND, WHICH IS A HYDRATED DOUBLE SULPHATE OF ALUMINIUM  
AND POTASSIUM, AND IN THE 19TH CENTURY ALUM WAS AN EXPENSIVE COMMODITY.