Finch & Co



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.