

Finch & C^o



VICTORIAN GOLD AND LAPIS LAZULI INK PEN

A FINE EARLY VICTORIAN GOLD AND LAPIS LAZULI INK PEN
THE TOP INSET WITH A CARVED BLOOD STONE INTAGLIO DEPICTING AN OWL

CIRCA 1840

SIZE: 14.5CM LONG – 5¾ INS LONG

LITERATURE

LAPIS LAZULI IS A ROCK THAT VARIES IN COLOUR FROM DEEP BLUE TO AZURE CONTAINING TRACES OF PYRITE THAT PEPPER THE ROCK WITH AN UNMISTAKABLE GOLDEN YELLOW SPARKLE. REFERENCES TO LAPIS LAZULI OCCUR AS LONG AGO AS 2650 BC IN THE SUMMERIAN EPIC 'POEM OF GILGAMESH'. IN ANCIENT EGYPT IT WAS USED BY THE PHARAOHS FOR JEWELLERY, INLAY AND OBJECTS, AND SOME FABULOUS EXAMPLES WERE FOUND BY HOWARD CARTER IN THE TOMB OF TUTANKHAMEN. THE OLDEST AND MOST FAMOUS LAPIS LAZULI DEPOSITS IN THE WORLD ARE THE MINES OF SAR-E-SANG IN THE MOUNTAINS OF BADAKHSHAN PROVINCE IN AFGHANISTAN. THESE DEPOSITS HAVE BEEN WORKED FOR SOME 6000 YEARS AND STILL PRODUCE THE BEST LAPIS LAZULI.