Finch & Co



RUSSIAN TROMPE L'OEIL DESK WEIGHT

A RUSSIAN TROMPE L'OEIL DESK WEIGHT DISPLAYING SUMMER FRUITING BERRIES AND THEIR LEAVES CARVED OF AGATE, JADE AND CRYSTAL ON A BLACK MARBLE SLAB LAID UPON A FACETED GREY JASPER PLINTH
19TH CENTURY
SIZE: 18CM WIDE, 11.5CM DEEP, 5.5CM HIGH – 7 INS WIDE, 4½ INS DEEP, 2¼ INS HIGH
SEE: FINCH & CO CATALOGUE NO. 10, ITEM NO. 75 FOR ANOTHER EXAMPLE

LITERATURE

THE RUSSIAN URALS AND THE ALTAI MOUNTAINS OF MONGOLIA ARE THE RICHEST SOURCE IN THE WORLD FOR DECORATIVE COLOURED STONES. MINED IN LARGE BLOCKS RATHER THAN AS SMALL FRAGMENTS THESE STONES WOULD THEN BE TRANSPORTED SIX HUNDRED MILES TO THE IMPERIAL STONE CUTTING MANUFACTURERS. FOUNDED BY PETER THE GREAT IN 1721 AT THE TIME OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PETERHOF PALACE AND PARK, THE LAPIDARY AND GRINDING MILL SPECIALISED IN CREATING SMALL ORNAMENTAL WORKS OF ART THAT DISPLAYED THE WEALTH OF RUSSIAN MINERALOGY.