

Finch & C^o



VICTORIAN NILE CROCODILE 'CROCODYLUS NILOTICUS' MOUNTED AS A WALL BRACKET

THE MASSIVE TAXIDERMY HEAD OF A VICTORIAN NILE CROCODILE 'CROCODYLUS NILOTICUS' MOUNTED AS A WALL BRACKET

CIRCA 1860 – 1880

SIZE: 86.5CM HIGH, 48CM WIDE, 29CM DEEP - 34 INS HIGH, 18¾ INS WIDE, 11½ INS DEEP

LITERATURE

THE NILE CROCODILE IS THE SECOND LARGEST EXTANT REPTILE IN THE WORLD AFTER THE SALT WATER CROCODILE. THEY ARE CAPABLE OF LIVING FOR OVER 100 YEARS AND THEIR VIRTUALLY INDISCRIMINATE DIET HAS GIVEN THEM A DESERVED REPUTATION AS VICIOUS MAN-EATERS. THEY CAN WEIGH UP TO 730 KILOS AND GROW TO ABOUT FIVE TO SIX METRES LONG. ALTHOUGH MOST REPTILES LAY THEIR EGGS IN A SECURE PLACE AND LEAVE THEM TO HATCH, NILE CROCODILES FEROCIOUSLY GUARD THEIR NESTS UNTIL THE EGGS HATCH AND BOTH PARENTS CAN BE SEEN ROLLING THE EGGS GENTLY IN THEIR MOUTHS TO HELP THEIR YOUNG EMERGE. SACRED TO THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS THE NILE CROCODILE WAS ONCE A COMMON SIGHT IN AFRICA, BUT POLLUTION, HUNTING AND HABITAT LOSS HAVE SEVERELY DEPLETED THEIR NUMBERS.