Finch & Co



RARE VICTORIAN TAXIDERMY SPECIMEN OF A TWO-HEADED AYRSHIRE BULL CALF

A RARE VICTORIAN TAXIDERMY SPECIMEN OF A TWO-HEADED AYRSHIRE BULL CALF
A BRASS LABEL ATTACHED READING 'MINE'S A DOUBLE'
19TH CENTURY
SIZE: 28CM HIGH, 28CM WIDE, 23CM DEEP - 11 INS HIGH, 11 INS WIDE, 9 INS DEEP

LITERATURE

NATURAL CURIOSITIES WERE VERY POPULAR WITH THE VICTORIANS AND GENUINE GROTESQUE MUTATIONS OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS OCCURRED MORE FREQUENTLY IN THE 19TH CENTURY DUE TO INBREEDING AND A RESTRICTED GENE POOL FOR PRIZE STOCK. FEW OF THE ANIMALS SURVIVED FOR VERY LONG AFTER BIRTH, BUT SOME, LIKE THIS CALF, LIVED FOR A FEW WEEKS OR MONTHS. WALTER POTTER HAD A STARTLING VARIETY OF FREAKS IN HIS BRAMBER VILLAGE MUSEUM WITH MULTI-LEGGED CREATURES BEING A SPECIALITY OF HIS. LOCAL PEOPLE WOULD BRING HIM SPECIMENS AND POTTER WOULD ACCEPT THEM, TAXIDERMY AND DISPLAY THEM IN ORDER THAT HE WOULD BE OFFERED MORE!