Finch & Co



LARGE ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ALABASTER FUNERARY JAR WITH STRAIGHT SIDED CYLINDRICAL BODY

A FINE LARGE ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ALABASTER FUNERARY JAR WITH STRAIGHT SIDED CYLINDRICAL BODY SURMOUNTED BY AN EVERTED ROUNDED RIM BELOW WHICH IS A NOTCHED BAND IN RAISED RELIEF IN IMITATION OF TWISTED ROPE
OLD KINGDOM CIRCA 2686 - 2181 BC
SIZE: 21CM HIGH, 12.5 DIA. - 8¼ INS HIGH, 5 INS DIA.

LITERATURE

ALABASTER OR EGYPTIAN CALCITE, WAS ONE OF THE FAVOURITE MATERIALS OF EGYPTIAN ARTISTS. IT IS A WHITE OR TRANSLUCENT STONE WHICH IS A FORM OF LIMESTONE, CALCIUM CARBONATE, MORE ACCURATELY DESCRIBED AS TRAVERTINE. FROM THE EARLY DYNASTIC PERIOD ONWARDS IT WAS INCREASINGLY USED FOR THE PRODUCTION OF FUNERARY VESSELS. FINE STONEWORK WAS THE HALLMARK OF THE WEALTHY UPPER CLASS WITH THE ROYAL WORKSHOPS PRODUCING FINELY CRAFTED CALCITE OBJECTS AS GIFTS FROM THE PHARAOH TO HIS RELATIVES AND FRIENDS.
ALABASTER OCCURS PRINCIPALLY IN THE AREA OF MIDDLE EGYPT, THE MAIN PHARAONIC SOURCE BEING HATNUB WHICH IS ABOUT 18KM SOUTH EAST OF THE ANCIENT NEW KINGDOM CITY OF EL-AMARNA.