

An enormous fragment of Imperial Porphyry

£18,000



REF: 5809

Height: 77.5 cm (30.5")

Width: 32 cm (12.6")

Depth: 23 cm (9.1")

Description

With a flat polished front, probably polished in the 18th century, and a raw back, mounted on a modern plinth base.

Originally quarried in Gebel Dokhan, Egypt, 1-5th Century CE and transported, via the Nile and Mediterranean, to Rome. This piece with an 18th century re-polished front.

Dimensions include mount.

Provenance:

Private Swiss collection

By repute Philip Hewat-Jaboor (1953 - 2022)

David Le Lay (1945 - 2017).

Private French collection

Egyptian Porphyry was quarried at Gebel Dokhan, in what became known as Mons Porphyrites - a group of quarries in Egypt's Red Sea Hills.

First discovered in the early 1st century AD, the quarries remained in operation until the 5th century and were Imperial property.

Just as the colour purple was exclusively for the use of the Emperor, the royal-coloured stone was reserved for Imperial use and was the supreme symbol of Imperial Power.