Finch & Co



A RARE ISLAMIC LARGE PORPHYRY MORTAR

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WITH 'STYLISED' LOBES AND POURING SPOUT

OLD FISSURES AND BREAK

PORPHYRY, IRON RING TO BASE

EGYPT

13TH / 14TH CENTURY

SIZE: 18CM HIGH, 32.5CM DIA. (MAX) - 7 INS HIGH, 12½ INS DIA.

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LITERATURE

VIRTUALLY EVERY PIECE OF PORPHYRY WAS QUARRIED BY CONVICTS AND SLAVES FROM THE EGYPTIAN EASTERN DESERT AT GEBEL DOKHAN. THE QUARRIES WERE OPENED IN THE EARLY 1ST CENTURY AD AND WORKED UNTIL THE 5TH CENTURY AD. THEY WERE MOST ACTIVELY WORKED UNDER THE ROMAN EMPERORS NERO, TRAJAN AND HADRIAN. THE EMPERORS RESERVED THE COLOUR PURPLE FOR THEIR OWN USE AND SO PORPHYRY AND THE EGYPTIAN QUARRIES BECAME THEIR EXCLUSIVE ROMAN IMPERIAL PROPERTY. ISLAMIC CARVED MORTAR WAS PROBABLY CARVED IN EGYPT FROM AN EARLIER MINED OR WORKED BLOCK.

PROVENANCE

PURCHASED ITALY 2011

EX PRIVATE COLLECTION