

SA1105845

Victorian Whitby Jet Bead Necklace with 9CT Gold Clasp

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1105845****Date of manufacture: Victorian**

Dimensions

Width = 74 cm (29.1")

Description

A beautiful string of glossy black Victorian jet beads with a nine-carat gold clasp. Jet is a type of coal, made from driftwood which sinks to the floor of the sea and becomes slowly buried in mud, hardening over millions of years. Victorian jet, now extremely collectible, largely comes from the English seaside town of Whitby - not to be confused with "French jet", which is actually black glass. Jet was popularised by Queen Victoria, who wore only black mourning jewellery following the death of her beloved husband Prince Albert in 1861. Jet was expensive - both limited in supply and requiring skilled craftsmanship to carve without breaking - and popular cheaper alternatives included gutta serena, vulcanite and bog oak, as well as onyx. The necklace closes with a substantial nine-carat gold springring clasp in good working order. One bead has a chipped edge (see photos) but the necklace is otherwise in excellent antique condition, with no other chips or cracks we've found. Length: Approximately 29 inches. Size: The beads range in size from approx 1cm to 1.5cm. Weight: 58.8g.

Seller Details

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