

SA554642

Section of the 1866 Trans-Atlantic Telegraph Cable by The Telegraph Construction & Maintenance Company Limited

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA554642****Date of manufacture: 1860**

Dimensions

Height = 7 cm (2.8")

Width = 3 cm (1.2")

Depth = 3 cm (1.2")

Description

A very rare commemorative section of 1866 Trans-Atlantic telegraph cable by The Telegraph Construction & Maintenance Company Limited (Telcon). This museum quality piece is comprised of a core with a single copper conductor surrounded by gutta percha and a brass tape (teredo tape) used to inhibit marine boring insects from destroying the core. It is further surrounded by a protective layer of 10 jute covered armoured cables. A brass stamped ferrule or collar surrounds the tip and the base. The tip states: "Telegraph Construction & Maintenance Company Limited" The base states: "Contractors, London. Atlantic 1866." The 1866 trans-Atlantic telegraph was a monumentally historic achievement, allowing the UK and the US to communicate with one another in a matter of minutes as opposed to weeks. Previous attempts in 1857 and 1858 had both ultimately failed although the 1858 cable famously allowed Queen Victoria to send a message of congratulations to the then President Buchanan before its demise just a week later. The outbreak of the American Civil War hampered any further attempts in the short term but by 1865 another Anglo-American attempt was commissioned using Brunel's S...

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