

SA661647

Horn Trophy of the Battle of Magdala c.1868.

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA661647****Date of manufacture: 19th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 17 cm (6.7")

Width = 77 cm (30.3")

Depth = 14 cm (5.5")

Description

Very large ox horn drinking vessel with silver mounts engraved with an inscription relating to the 1868 Battle of Magdala, conclusion of the British military expedition to Abyssinia (modern day Ethiopia). 30" long with a maximum diameter of 5½". Mounted with silver plated bands making fixing points for a leather carry strap plus further saw-tooth edged mounts to the ends, with a glass base and a finial stopper to the tip. Engraved inscription reads 'This horn was brought from Magdala by Captain E Harrison 4th Kings Own April 1868'. Plus a second presentation inscription on the upper band addressed to 'Thomas Aldersey Aldersey from E. Harrison 1868'. Overall very good condition, though there is unfortunately a crack to the glass base and the cork stopper is missing. An extraordinary example of 'gunboat diplomacy' and the British Empire's ability to fight anywhere across the globe, the Abyssinian campaign saw 12,000 British and Indian troops (including the 4th King Own infantry regiment), march for two months to the hilltop fort citadel of Magdala where they routed the army of Emperor Tewodros II. The Emperor, offended by the British ignoring his letter to Queen Victoria...

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