

SA760971

Edwardian Glass Replica of the Uncut Cullinan Diamond - James R Gregory

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA760971

Date of manufacture: 1910

Dimensions

Height = 16 cm (6.3")

Width = 15 cm (5.9")

Depth = 15 cm (5.9")

Description

For sale, an Edwardian glass replica of the Cullinan diamond enclosed upon an ebonised base and glass dome from the collection of mineralogists Gregory, Bottley & Lloyd. The Cullinan, the largest gem quality white diamond ever found, was discovered at the Premier Mine on 26th January 1905, eighteen feet below the surface and weighed 3106 carats. The rough diamond was nearly flawless and named the Cullinan in honour of Sir Thomas Cullinan, the founder of the Premier Mine in which it was found. After its initial public display at Johannesburg's Standard Bank it was sent to London for inspection by King Edward VII and owing to its immense value, a decoy replica was created for carriage by steamboat back to The United Kingdom accompanied by the requisite security, whilst the original was simply sent via registered post. The diamond was offered for sale in London by Sales Agents, S. Neumann & Co but remained unsold until 1907 when Louis Botha, premier of the Transvaal, persuaded his government to buy the diamond for £150,000 and presented it to King Edward VII as a token of thanks for granting Transvaal its own constitution. Prime Minister Henry Campbell Bannerman advised a...

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