



From Bobby Foster – 2 Jun 12

Brown Porcelain Strain – Cat # 12-14

Hi Gang,

Looks like a large Hershey bar; however, is not edible.

Measurements are classified as “SWAG” given in English standard, however, it may in fact be Metric in size.

Length is $7 \frac{15}{16}$ inch by $1 \frac{3}{8}$ inch wide and 1 inch thick, with $\frac{5}{16}$ inch holes on $5 \frac{7}{8}$ inch center.

Porcelain with a rich chocolate glaze? One end was not glaze applied, and another end, has what I would guess, excess drip glaze, which was ground off; as there are serrated marks, much like a grinding wheel would leave.

Here’s the story, as it was relayed to me.

“Insulator from the nose mast for Amundsen’s Dirigible “Norge” Langyear City, Spitzbergen Norway. First flight over the North Pole 1926. Picked up under the mast by Mr. & Mrs. R.G. Thompson in 1958”

There are two launch tower’s still standing in Ny-Alesund Auf Spitzbergen and Vadsø Norway. Study of photo’s taken in 2005, reveal little, other than basic structure; but the one at Spitzbergen has two guywires that may have insulators at the tower connection (speculation - photo not clear). Also, I’ve read that launch towers had capability to provide crew access, electricity, fuel and water.

Roald Amundsen, Umberto Nobile (Italian designer/pilot) and Lincoln Ellsworth. with a crew of 16 total, left May 11, 1926 for flight over the North Pole on 12 May and then to Nome Alaska; however, they fell short, due to weather and landed at Teller Alaska on 14 May, where the ship was disassembled and shipped back to Europe. The Norge (Norway) was an Italian built semi-rigid airship with 3 Maybach engines, and it would seem likely there was DC power for radio’s, instruments, lights and heat, therefore this may be a stand-off type insulator?? Nose mast insulator?? Guy-strain insulator?? Lighting arrester type?? Or, maybe it’s just a paperweight.

Anyway, there’s lots of interesting reading on the idiot screen and it’s a fun story, true or false, I don’t know, so will leave it up to you experts to speculate.



#165 8" Porcelain Radio Strain

Chocolate Brown An amazing strain from a launch tower in Norway. Read the story on the left page and some history of the flight below.

Estimate: \$50 - \$75 Open: \$1



A summary of the Norge Expedition

In 1925, Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen invited Italian engineer Umberto Nobile to join him in an ambitious airship expedition to cross the Arctic. Nobile modified the N-1 airship, which was then renamed Norge and funded by the Aero Club of Norway. The expedition aimed to explore uncharted areas between the North Pole and Alaska. After multiple weather-related delays, the Norge began its journey on April 10, 1926, departing from Rome and making stops in England, Oslo, and Gatchina, near Leningrad, for maintenance and adjustments.

The Norge finally left Gatchina on May 5, 1926, and proceeded to Ny-Ålesund in Svalbard, Norway, the last stop before heading to the North Pole. The 16-member crew included notable figures like Amundsen as leader and navigator, Nobile as pilot, and American explorer Lincoln Ellsworth, among others. Nobile's dog, Titina, also joined as a mascot. On May 11, 1926, the airship departed for the North Pole, and early the next day, on May 12, the crew reached their destination.

At the North Pole, the crew dropped Norwegian, American, and Italian flags onto the ice to mark their achievement. However, tensions between Amundsen and Nobile, which had already been present during the trip, worsened when Amundsen noticed that the Italian flag was larger than the others. Amundsen was also annoyed by what he considered an excessive number of banners dropped by Nobile, though Nobile later disputed this account, claiming Amundsen exaggerated the issue.

After reaching the Pole, the Norge encountered difficulties with ice forming on its propellers, but the crew managed to press on. On May 14, worsening weather conditions forced the expedition to land in Teller, Alaska, instead of their planned destination of Nome. The airship was damaged during the landing and had to be dismantled. Despite earlier disputed claims by explorers such as Frederick Cook, Robert Peary, and Richard Byrd, many consider the Norge expedition to be the first verified successful journey to the North Pole.