

SA1220545

Large Chinese Luopan Geomantic Compass, Guangdong, c.1890

Price

GBP 1,000

| USD \$1,351 | EUR 1,170

Item Reference: SA1220545

Date of manufacture: 19th Century

Dimensions

Height = 1.8 cm (0.7")

Width = 22.6 cm (8.9")

Depth = 22.6 cm (8.9")

Description

A substantial Chinese luopan compass dating to the late Qing Dynasty, circa 1890. Produced in Xingning County, Guangdong Province, this instrument was designed for the practice of Feng Shui and traditional Chinese geomancy. Its unusually large 22.6 cm diameter places it among the more impressive surviving examples. The lacquered face is arranged in multiple concentric rings carrying cosmological, directional and calendrical information rendered in gold and red on a black ground. Included are the Bagua trigrams, Twenty-Four Mountains, Five Elements and traditional Stem-Branch cycles. The central Tian Chi retains its original magnetic needle beneath glass. The reverse bears a maker's inscription naming Xingning County, Xinghua Street and Xing Tai Ji. Comparable luopan compasses are preserved in the collections of the British Museum (<https://www.britishmuseum.org>), Penn Museum (<https://www.penn.museum>), Science Museum London (<https://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk>), Stromness Museum (<https://www.stromnessmuseum.org.uk>), Royal Museums Greenwich (<https://www.rmg.co.uk>) and the Metropolitan Museum of Art (<https://www.metmuseum.org>), reflecting the enduring importance of the luopan...

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