

SA433850

Late Victorian Oak Miner's or Pit Head Stick Barometer by Negretti & Zambra

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA433850****Date of manufacture: 1880**

Dimensions

Height = 97 cm (38.2")

Width = 8 cm (3.1")

Depth = 4 cm (1.6")

Description

A late Victorian oak miners or pit head barometer by Negretti & Zambra. The barometer is comprised of a solid oak case with enclosed a silvered scale, single vernier and brass surround. They were manufactured by Negretti & Zambra as early as 1864, however their use for mining was made compulsory by an act of parliament in 1872. It was understood by this point that a mine explosion was preceded by a corresponding reduction of atmospheric pressure so these instruments had a very real safety purpose for those working in the harsh conditions of a mine. Section 26 of the Mines (Coal) Regulations Act of 1872 stated that, "After dangerous gas has been found in any mine, a barometer or thermometer shall be placed above ground in a conspicuous position near the entrance to the mine." In fact, these barometers were commonly taken underground and this is evidenced from the size of the scale of these barometers, reading from 26 to 33 inches allowing for the barometer to be used at 2000 feet below sea level. Negretti & Zambra in their "Treatise on Meteorological Instruments" state the following: "The inflammable & suffocating gases, known to coal miners as fire damp and choke damp..."

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