

SA485073

Victorian S Johnson's Patent Revolution Indicator or Odometer

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA485073****Date of manufacture: 1870**

Dimensions

Height = 6 cm (2.4")

Width = 6 cm (2.4")

Depth = 3 cm (1.2")

Description

A Victorian Johnson's Patent Revolution Indicator or Odometer. Invented and patented in 1876 by Sidney Johnson, the patent revolution indicator was one of a number of patents that this inventor sought to cover under patents during the late nineteenth century. He seems to have been mostly concerned in inventions for carriages and velocipedes or early bicycles. His first in 1871 (US Patent 117638) is a design for a three wheeled velocipede which was considered for use on both land and water and was posted in the London Gazette on April the 4th 1871, making Johnson a rather early designer of these types of vehicle. The velocipede was only starting to become popularised at around 1860 and saw its heyday during the 1880's. His next was the odometer currently offered for sale here and is described in the 1874 patent documentation as being, "a new and useful improvement in machinery for indicating the distance travelled by vehicles". His final offering in 1894 is an improvement on the arrangement for spokes on a wheel including a clutch for engaging a wheel with its axle. Given that Johnson was inventing for a period of twenty four years it seems a shame that so little is known...

Internal Ref: 408

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