

SA567825

English Made Brass Cased Explorers Compass For Peter Orr, Madras c.1880

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA567825****Date of manufacture: 1880**

Dimensions

Height = 1 cm (0.4")

Width = 6 cm (2.4")

Depth = 6 cm (2.4")

Description

A handsome Victorian pocket / explorer compass with a cross bar needle pivoting on a jewelled bearing above a traditional dial. Complete in its brass case and lid and incorporates a transit lock activated when the lid is in place, the compass is protected with an undamaged crystal cover. Signed with a London trademark and the famous Indian retailer, P. Orr & Sons, Madras. Excellent condition measuring 2 3/4" x 3/4" and dating to c.1880. India in early 19th century was seen as the land of opportunity. Among the many entrepreneurs who applied to the East India Company for a license to trade here were two brothers from Scotland ... Peter Orr born in 1803, and Alexander Orr born in 1804. Peter was a watch and chronometer maker, while Alexander was a lawyer in Edinburgh. The brothers arrived in Madras in Feb 1843. They went into immediate partnership with Gordon and Co., in Broadway. The Gordons were also a Scottish family and it is possible that there were connections back in Scotland. The Gordons had been trading in Madras since 1792, (thus creating a tradition of watch making which has now lasted for more than 200 years!). When Mr. Gordon retired the partnership was diss...

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