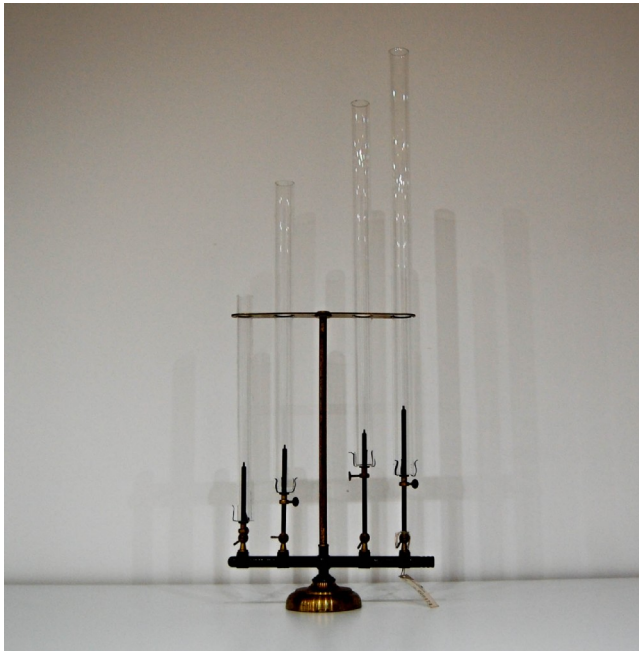


SA637080

Late Victorian Chemical Harmonica or Singing Flame Demonstration Apparatus

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA637080

Date of manufacture: 1900

Dimensions

Height = 72 cm (28.3")

Width = 26 cm (10.2")

Depth = 10 cm (3.9")

Description

For sale, a late Victorian chemical harmonica or singing flame demonstration apparatus. This rare piece is comprised of a solid turned brass base with horizontal tube with gas attachment at one end. Running vertically from the base are four gas taps and pencil thin burners of different lengths with an adjustable mount attached to each one. The mounts form a rest for the base of four cylindrical glass tubes of different sizes which are in turn supported at a higher level by a support bar emanating from the central stem. The principle is based upon the oscillation of a gas flame when it is enclosed within a glass tube, the outcome of which is sound. These sounds can then be tuned to differing pitches by altering the height of the tube mount on the burner shaft. The discovery was originally made by professor of physics at the Leiden University in The Netherlands, Petrus Leonardus Rijke where he used a glass tube in which he placed a piece of gauze which was heated until red hot, upon removing the flame a loud sound as emitted until the gauze cooled down. His experiments were including in British Scientist. Lord Rayleigh's definitive text on sound in 1877 as were the expe...

Seller Details

Jason Clarke Antiques

Newbury Berkshire United Kingdom



Tel: 07815 046645

International Tel: +44 7815 046645