

SA696308

Victorian Borda Type Reflecting Circle by Thomas Wegener of Berlin

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA696308****Date of manufacture: 1880**

Dimensions

Height = 25 cm (9.8")

Width = 25 cm (9.8")

Depth = 10 cm (3.9")

Description

For sale, a late Victorian Borda type Reflecting Circle by Thomas Wegener of Berlin. Complete with its original sighting telescope, magnifier with light diffuser on pivot arm for reading at every point of the circumference and an unusual glass prism and mirror combination. The scale is divided and numbered to three hundred degrees but is further divided around the majority of the circumference to allow for a second reading to be taken from the single limb with a Vernier to each end. The ability for a dual reading vastly improved the accuracy of the instrument. The instrument is ten inches in diameter and has double handle to the reverse. The limb is superbly engraved to the German maker, "Th Wegener Berlin, No: 331" and is the earliest of any known example of these instruments from his workshop. The reflecting circle was invented by the German astronomer, Tobias Mayer in 1752 and was submitted to The Board of Longitude for use in sea trials. Admiral John Campbell the developer of the sextant was known to have constructed an example from Mayer's plans but it was considered too heavy and cumbersome to be of practical use. Perhaps due to the involvement of Campbell in t...

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