

SA758706

George II Steelyard Gold Balance by Bradford Darby & Hulls of Campden Gloucestershire

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA758706****Date of manufacture: 1750**

Dimensions

Height = 20 cm (7.9")

Width = 2 cm (0.8")

Depth = 1.5 cm (0.6")

Description

For sale, a leather cased mid-Eighteenth Century steelyard gold balance by Bradford Darby & Hulls of Campden, Gloucestershire. Patented by William Bradford in 1753 as a means to combat the widespread counterfeiting of currency prevalent in the Eighteenth Century, Patent No 686 was described as a "machine for weighing gold coin, rings and all utensils made of gold". It consists of a long rectangular brass beam with two pins attached to the base to act as pivots. The beam would have been rested at a shelf-edge and the pincers at one end would have held the subject piece of gold suspended over the side. The scale is engraved in recognition of the currency weight and the attached slide weights could be manouvered until equilibrium is achieved with the subject gold held in the pincer. Owing to its rarity most people reasonably assume that this interesting scale was only produced as a hydrostatic scale as described in the original 1753 patent guide below: "The Gentleman's & Trader's Guide containing the description and use of a new invented instrument for preventing frauds by counterfeit gold First, you have a small thin plate of brass, which you are to lay flat upon a leve..."

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