

SA768650

Early Nineteenth Century Gilt Pocket Compass by Robert Brettel Bate London

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA768650****Date of manufacture: 1800**

Dimensions

Height = 6 cm (2.4")

Width = 4 cm (1.6")

Depth = 1 cm (0.4")

Description

For sale an early Nineteenth Century gilt lacquered pocket compass by Robert Brettel Bate of Poultry, London. This exquisite example measures one and half inch in diameter with a ceramic dial and star motif to the bearing points. The north is replaced with a fleur de lys motif and is named to Bate, London. It retains almost one hundred percent of its gilt finish with some slight loss at the hanging loop. The instrument remains in complete working order and has a working locking mechanism behind the stalk. The maker, Robert Brettell Bate was a very high quality manufacturer of scientific instruments working in the early part of the Nineteenth Century. Born in 1782, to a family of Bankers in Stourbridge, he initially travelled to London to become a Haberdasher under his Uncle Robert Brettell. His Aunt also living in London was married to Bartholomew Sikes, famous for winning favour with The Board of Excise for his hydrometer design in 1802. In 1804, Robert Bate married his cousin, the daughter of his aunt Mary and Bartholomew Sikes, however it was followed quite shortly with the sudden death of Sikes. Supported by his newly widowed Aunt, Bate took over Sike's business an...

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