

SA772163

Early Victorian Dipleidoscope by EJ Dent of 61 The Strand London

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA772163****Date of manufacture: 1850**

Dimensions

Height = 7 cm (2.8")

Width = 10 cm (3.9")

Depth = 8 cm (3.1")

Description

For sale, an early Victorian dipleidoscope by EJ Dent of 61 the Strand, London. This ingenious device uses a contrivance of mirrors within its solid brass body to reflect two shadow images of the sun once it is correctly positioned in the meridian. As noon is reached, the shadows of the sun close upon one another and three measurements are recorded. The first observation is the initial contact of the the two sun reflections in the dipleidoscope, the second when they exactly coincide and then the final observation is taken when the edges of the two images part from one another. The mean average of all of these events should allow the user to correct their timepieces to true noon. The concen with accurate timekeeping had been a headache for generations before this device gained any prominence and to a celebrated chronometer maker of Dent's pedigree it would surely have been an issue worth solving. A simple means to gaining precision time keeping using a domestic instrument would have been highly valuable. Dent confidently suggests that, "it is not saying too much to affirm, that a dipleidoscope should be placed in all country Parsonages as well as in Railway Stations, and...

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