

SA780244

Patent Compensating Portable Barometer by William Harris London

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA780244****Date of manufacture: 1850**

Dimensions

Height = 33 cm (13.0")

Width = 9 cm (3.5")

Depth = 4 cm (1.6")

Description

A patent compensating portable barometer by William Harris & Son, London. This example is comprised of a thirteen inch rosewood case containing a silvered scale plate with thermometer, glass cistern and setting dial for recording the day's reading which is hand operated from the underside of the case. The right hand side of the case has a sprung brass knurled knob to allow for the accompanying silvered scale to be slid up and down to record the temperature and provide the associated reading from the level in the cistern. The top of the scale is engraved to "William Harris & Son, 50 High Holborn, London" and vertically engraved to the right hand side of the thermometer with, "Harris's Patent Compensating Portable Barometer". William Harris was the son of the London optician Richard Harris but was apprenticed in 1788 to a Joseph Robinson who is described as a motion maker. With a seven year apprenticeship it is likely that Harris would have earned his freedom by 1795 although he does not appear in the records until 1800 where he is listed as trading from his premises at 50 High Holborn. His capabilities must have brought him early success, by 1809 it is known that Sir Da...

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