

SA785420

Four Draw Telescope by Watkins of Charing Cross Engraved to Frances Nisbet

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA785420****Date of manufacture: 1750**

Dimensions

Height = 114 cm (44.9")

Width = 6 cm (2.4")

Depth = 6 cm (2.4")

Description

For sale, a late Eighteenth four draw telescope by Francis Watkins of Charing Cross engraved to Frances Nisbet. This magnificent telescope is comprised of a quality rosewood barrel and measures 114cms when extended, 29cms when closed and has a one and three quarter inch objective lens which retains its original dust cap. The eyetube also retains its original dust slide and is engraved to the maker "Watkins - Charing Cross". As one would expect from such a prestigious London maker, the fine brasswork is of superior quality. Whereas most dedication on telescopes are also present on the first draw, somewhat unusually, the telescope is engraved to the fourth draw with the name Fra's Nisbet. The most immediate association for the name would be for Fanny (Frances) Nisbet, the beleaguered wife of Lord Horatio Nelson. The style of the telescope was certainly popular through the latter part of the Eighteenth Century and early Nineteenth Century so would fit with The Nelsons' time spent in London however it would have had to have been manufactured prior to 1787 when Fanny would have been using her previous surname. Nelson is documented through his letters to Fanny as having frequ...

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