

SA798256

Early Victorian Cased Stanhope Lens by Francis Linsell West London

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA798256****Date of manufacture: 1850**

Dimensions

Height = 5 cm (2.0")

Width = 1.5 cm (0.6")

Depth = 1.5 cm (0.6")

Description

For sale, an early Victorian cased Stanhope lens by Francis Linsell West of 39 Southampton Street, The Strand, London. The Stanhope lens so called because it was considered to have been invented by Charles, The Third Earl Stanhope, is a simple microscope comprised of glass cylinder with two convex ends and which could be used for rudimentary scientific investigation. It was popularised due to its easy accessibility to the public in a period when microscopy was a growing phenomenon. Enclosed in a German silver collar and loop, this example comes complete with its original card & morocco leather covered case. It is further marked to "FL West, 39 Southampton St, Strand, London" in gilt lettering to the inside of the lid. Francis Linsell West was apprenticed and later worked under his Father, Francis West who largely popularised the Stanhope lens from his premises in Fleet Street. West the elder was an enterprising character who during his career, demonstrated himself to be an adept marketer as an early advert for the lens in the Comic Almanack of 1836 shows: "Christmas - I tell you what? The prettiest trinket and decidedly the most useful present you can make at this se..."

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