

SA829124

William IV Desk Thermometer from The Burning of The Palace of Westminster 1834

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA829124****Date of manufacture: 1800**

Dimensions

Height = 19 cm (7.5")

Width = 9 cm (3.5")

Depth = 9 cm (3.5")

Description

For sale, a William IV period desk thermometer constructed using reclaimed timber from the painted chamber in The Palace of Westminster destroyed by fire in 1834. Simply constructed using three graduated square sections of wood to form the base and mounted with an obelisk shaped column to the centre. A thermometer with Fahrenheit and Reamur scale is affixed to the front side with a small silvered plaque to the front of the base engraved with: "Made from wood forming part of The Painted Chamber, House of Lords 1065." The Palace of Westminster was a medieval royal palace and subsequently used to house The British Parliament until it was completely destroyed by fire in 1834. The building was partly used for the storage of tally sticks, a method in which to record agreements and loans between two individuals. The two halves of the tally stick would be marked with corresponding markings and both Parties would receive a piece each. Values could be recorded on these sticks and ensure that no fraudulent activity could take place. The marks could not be increased or tampered with because they would not then correspond when reunited. Their use by The Government was phased out b...

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