

SA846918

Sir David Brewster Patent Telescope for Measuring Distances & Angles by William Harris & Co London

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA846918

Date of manufacture: 1800

Dimensions

Height = 87 cm (34.3")

Width = 6 cm (2.4")

Depth = 6 cm (2.4")

Description

For sale an important George III period, museum quality hand held patent telescope for measuring angles and distances invented by the famous Scottish scientist Sir David Brewster and patented in partnership with the scientific instrument maker William Harris in May 1811. This unassuming but superbly executed three draw non-achromatic telescope is typical in style for the period measuring 87cms at its full extent with its original sunshade (82.5 without) and 33cms fully retracted (28.5 without sunshade). It has a two inch objective lens and a deep reddish mahogany barrel. It is engraved on the first draw to, "W. Harris & Co. 50 Holborn, London" and is further engraved with "Patent Telescope for Measuring Angles & Distances, No 57". The patent gives some sense of its individuality but the telescope distinguishes itself from all others of the period by virtue of an engraved scale to the second and third barrels with further engraved writing stating the following on each side of the scale, "scale of minutes divided object glass" and "scale of minutes single object glass". The reference to single and divided object glass can be understood by taking the telescope apart where ...

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