

SA887577

Late Eighteenth Century Hydrostatic Bubbles by Charles Aiano London

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA887577****Date of manufacture: 1800**

Dimensions

Height = 3.5 cm (1.4")

Width = 9 cm (3.5")

Depth = 9 cm (3.5")

Description

For sale a rare set of late Eighteenth Century hydrostatic bubbles by Charles Aiano, London. The early forefather of the more widely known Sikes hydrometer which was invented in 1802, these interesting instruments are also known as philosophical bubbles, specific gravity beads, aerometrical beads or hydrostatic beads. Described on the paper label affixed to the underside of the lid as 'Hydrostatic Balls for Spirits' they were invented in 1757 by Dr Alexander Wilson (1714-1786) a Scot who rose to become the first Professor of Practical Astronomy at Glasgow University and was a founder member of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. A contemporary biographical account of Wilson's life relates that in 1757: "He invented the hydrostatical glass-bubbles, for determining the strength of spirituous liquors of all kinds, which long experience, especially among the distillers and merchant in the West Indies, has now shown to be more accurate and more commodious than the instruments formerly used. From the minutes of a Philosophical and Literary Society, composed of the Professors and some of their friends, whose meetings were held weekly in the college, it appears that these hydrosta...

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