

SA895372

Eighteenth Century Circular Protractor by Benjamin Cole of Fleet Street

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA895372****Date of manufacture: 1750**

Dimensions

Height = 20 cm (7.9")

Width = 20 cm (7.9")

Depth = 1 cm (0.4")

Description

For sale, a mid Eighteenth-Century circular protractor by Benjamin Cole of Fleet Street, London. Comprised of a circular brass frame measuring $7\frac{3}{4}$ " in diameter, it is divided into 360 degrees with degree numbers running both clockwise and anti-clockwise around the circumference. Four strut arms at 90 degree intervals terminate to the centre with a semi-circular opening with centre mark for accurate positioning of the instrument. The centre is further fitted with a swing arm which rotates around the full 360 degrees and contains a Vernier which is placed over the outer scale to allow detailed measurements to the nearest minute of arc. The protractor is further engraved with the name, B. Cole London. The Cole business began with Benjamin Cole senior, the son of an Oxford bookbinder and engraver. Cole was born in 1695 and although there is some uncertainty about his early apprenticeship, it is likely that he was taken in by the renowned London instrument maker, Thomas Wright who traded from The Orrery & Globe in Fleet Street and who held a Royal Appointment for King George II. It is however certain that Cole worked for Wright during his formative years. At some point du...

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