

SA941405

Cased Victorian Surveyors Wheel by Stanley for The Grand Union Canal Company

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA941405

Date of manufacture: 1880

Dimensions

Height = 18 cm (7.1")

Width = 66 cm (26.0")

Depth = 62 cm (24.4")

Description

For sale, a Victorian surveyor's waywiser in original pine packing case by Stanley and marked to the Grand Union Canal Company. This super example is comprised of a brass bound mahogany wheel with brass spokes. It is affixed to a two-part black painted iron shaft clamped by a heavy brass wingnut to allow for the shaft to be removed for storage, and culminates in a turned mahogany handle. At the base of the shaft is attached a brass case containing cogs that are activated by means of a screw shaft emanating from the centre of the wheel and a glass fronted dial for measuring distance in yards, furlongs and miles. It is further engraved to the maker, "Stanley, London". The odometer (also variously known as a sureyor's wheel, a waywiser and perambulator) was used prolifically by surveyors and mapmakers throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. One was certainly used by Major James Rennell (Surveyor General to the Honorable East India Company) during his surveying of Bengal. He is noted in "The Cyclopedia; or Universal Dictionary of Arts, Sciences & Literature" in 1819 as saying that, "he measured a meridian line of three degrees with this instrument; and found it to agree min...

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