

SA943904

Late Victorian Henley's Universal Discharger by C Gerhardt of Bonn

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA943904****Date of manufacture: 1880**

Dimensions

Height = 23 cm (9.1")

Width = 16 cm (6.3")

Depth = 8 cm (3.1")

Description

For sale, a late Victorian Henley's Universal Discharger by C Gerhardt of Bonn. The instrument consists of a walnut base with vertical glass rods supported by brass ferrules to each side. The rods support a walnut platform into which an up and down adjustable discharge rod is placed through the centre. To the centre of the base below is a second, fixed discharge rod pointing upwards to meet the other and with a piece of glass tube fixed within a brass base surround. A hook to the front centre of the base is provided to allow electric charge to be sent to the lower rod from a Leyden Jar. The base is complete with its original brass plaque engraved to the maker, C. Gerhardt, Bonn. The purpose of the glass tube is clearly demonstrated in Max Kohl's catalogues (see images) where it is described as, "Apparatus for piercing glass up to a thickness of 2mm". A small disc of glass is intended to rest upon the tube which acts as a table support after which electrostatic charge can be applied and the glass disc is perforated as a result. Although the design is somewhat different from most Universal Dischargers which sport a central table and a discharge rod to each side, the pr...

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