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## **A STRIKING ARMILLARY SPHERE HELD ALOFT BY ATLAS**

**[Ptolemaic armillary sphere].**

### **Author**

[Anonymous]

### **Publication date**

c1780s].

### **Publisher**

### **Publication place**

[?Italy,

### **Physical description**

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### **Dimensions**

Diameter: 33mm (1.25 inches). Height: 1600mm (63 inches).

### **Notes**

This striking column, with Atlas supporting a Ptolemaic armillary sphere, was probably an architectural pediment of a Palladian villa.

The number of moons depicted is of particular note as Saturn was thought to have five moons between 1684 (when Cassini discovered the fifth) and 1789, when Herschel found two more with his powerful new reflecting instrument; Jupiter's four moons were all discovered by Galileo in 1609-1610 with no more being found until 1892.

### **Bibliography**

### **Provenance**

### **Price:**

**Inventory reference:** 12934