

Globe, 12 hand-coloured engraved paper gores, clipped at 65 degrees latitude, with two polar calottes, over a papier mâché and plaster sphere, varnished, housed within original shagreen over paste-board clamshell case, with hooks and eyes, lined with 12 hand-coloured engraved celestial gores, with two polar calottes, varnished. The case split in both halves where hinge would have been, loss to exterior and minor loss to celestial gores.

NEWTON'S FIRST POCKET GLOBE

A New Terrestrial Globe J. Newton 1783.

Author
NEWTON, J[ohn]

Publication date
1783.

Publisher

Publication place
London,

Physical description
Globe, 12 hand-coloured engraved paper gores, clipped at 65 degrees latitude, with two polar calottes, over a papier mâché and plaster sphere, varnished, housed within original shagreen over paste-board clamshell case, with hooks and eyes, lined with 12 hand-coloured engraved celestial gores, with two polar calottes, varnished. The case split in both halves where hinge would have been, loss to exterior and minor loss to celestial gores.

Dimensions
Diameter: 70mm (2.75 inches).

Notes

Biography

During the first half of the nineteenth century the firm of Newton, together with Bardin and Cary, occupied a leading position in the manufacture of globes in London. The firm was established by John Newton in 1783 and operated originally from the Globe & Sun 128 Chancery Lane, moving to 97 Chancery Lane in 1803, before settling at 66 Chancery Lane in 1817.

John Newton (1759-1844) was trained by Thomas Bateman (fl1754-81), who had previously been apprenticed to Nathaniel Hill (fl1746-1768). Newton's first globe was a revised edition of Hill's 1754 pocket globe, which he published in 1783 in association with William Palmer. The partnership dissolved shortly after, and Newton continued to publish the pocket globe under his own name. John's second son William Newton (1786-1861) joined the firm between 1814-1816, which traded under the name J. & W. Newton. In the same year the firm produced a new series of globes, including a new pocket globe.

By the 1830s the firm was also active as a patent agent and was joined by Miles Berry, a civil engineer and patent agent, after which the firm was known as Newton, Berry & Son. In 1842, William's eldest son, William Edward Newton (1818-1879), joined the business, followed by his brother Alfred Vincent Newton (1821-1900). The firm became known as W. Newton & Son, or once again, on the death of William, as simply Newton & Son from 1861 until about 1883.

Perhaps the greatest triumph for the Newton family was the Great Exhibition of 1851, where, aside from the globes they exhibited from 150 to 635mm (1 to 25 inches) in diameter, they were awarded a prize medal for a manuscript terrestrial globe of six feet in diameter.

Geography

Newton used Hill's copper plates from his 1754 pocket globe for the present globe with a number of alternations and updates. He has changed the text within the cartouche to feature his own name, however he retains the rococo cartouche that Hill used. Newton added Captain Cook's track and updated the Australian coastline with his discoveries, including "New Holland", "New South Wales", "Botany Bay", "Dimens Land", "Lewins L[and]", the "I[sles of] St Francis" and "New Zeeland".

The globe shows the equinoctial graduated in degrees, and the conforming ecliptic is highlighted in green. The prime meridian passes through London, and the principal land masses are outlined in colour and annotated with some of the major rivers and mountain ranges. The oceans show the winds with islands labelled and printed with dotted lines for Admiral Anson's Tract and the tract of Captain Cook's first voyage in 1760, while, the North Pacific region features a rococo scroll title cartouche.

Astronomy

The gores are pasted to the inside of the case, and the cartography features stars expressed in varying orders of magnitude and allegorical representations of the constellations finely executed.

Bibliography

Dekker GLB0029; Dekker and van der Krogt, fig.57; for reference see Dahl and Gauvin, pp.93-95; van der Krogt, Hil 1 and Hil 4; Worms and Baynton-Williams, pp.318-319; Dekker, pp.355-357.

Provenance

Price: £20000

Inventory reference: 14487

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