

Finch & C^o



A GERMAN CARVED SYCAMORE, BRASS AND ZINC MOUNTED MATHEMATICAL MODEL

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FOR THE DEMONSTRATION OF SPHERICAL GEOMETRY

WITH ORIGINAL PRINTED PAPER LABEL TO THE BASE READING: 'BEWEGLICHES HOLZMODEL ZUR ERLÄUTERUNG DES DANDELIN'SCHEN SATZES Ä... LEIPZIG'. (THE COTTON STRINGS NOW MISSING)

CIRCA 1900

SIZE: 28CM HIGH – 11 INS HIGH

LITERATURE

MATHEMATICS INFORM OUR PERCEPTION OF REALITY AND MODELS SERVE TO DEMONSTRATE THE PRECISION AND THE ELEGANCE OF THE SUBJECT. SPHERICAL GEOMETRY IS USED IN THE CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF THE GLOBE, PARTICULARLY BY AIRLINE PILOTS AND THIS MODEL PINPOINTS THESE LINES. ALTHOUGH THE EARTH IS A THREE DIMENSIONAL OBJECT ITS SURFACE IS TWO DIMENSIONAL AND ITS GEOMETRY IS THEREFORE TWO DIMENSIONAL. VIEWED FROM ABOVE THE EARTH THE AEROPLANE'S PATH DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE A STRAIGHT LINE SINCE IT FOLLOWS THE CURVE OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE, BUT AS FAR AS THE GEOMETRY OF THE SURFACE ITSELF IS CONCERNED IT APPEARS TO HAVE ALL THE PROPERTIES OF A STRAIGHT LINE.