

Finch & C^o



RARE GEORGIAN PEDOMETER BY SPENCER & PERKINS OF LONDON

A RARE GEORGIAN PEDOMETER BY SPENCER & PERKINS OF LONDON

WITH A WHITE ENAMEL FACE WITH THREE DIALS: 1/1000TH OF A MILE, (ONE CLICK OF THE MECHANISM) 1/10TH OF A MILE AND 1 – 12 MILES. WITH A FOB HOOK, THE CASE OF SHAGREEN AND GILT BRASS. IN GOOD OVERALL CONDITION

CIRCA 1775 – 1794

SIZE: 5.5CM DIA, 3CM DEEP, 15CMLONG (WITH ARM) – 2¼ INS DIA, 1¼ INS DEEP, 6 INS LONG (WITH ARM)

LITERATURE

A PEDOMETER OR STEP COUNTER WAS A METHOD OF MEASURING DISTANCE BY COUNTING THE NUMBER OF PACES IT TAKES TO WALK OR RUN FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER. THIS PEDOMETER MADE BY SPENCER & PERKINS IN THE LATE 18TH CENTURY WAS HOOKED OVER A BELT OR STRAP AND THE SWINGS IN WALKING WERE COUNTED BY A WEIGHTED MECHANISM INSIDE THE CASE. WORN ON THE BELT AND KEPT ON ALL DAY IT WOULD COUNT THE STEPS A PERSON TAKES BY DETECTING THE MOTION OF THEIR HIPS AND RECORDING HOW MANY STEPS THE WEARER HAS WALKED THAT DAY AND THEREFORE THE MILES: DISTANCE = THE NUMBER OF STEPS X STEP LENGTH.

THE ANCIENT ROMANS USED A HODOMETER CALIBRATED TO STEPS TO MEASURE DISTANCES FOR MILITARY AND CIVIL PURPOSES. THE DEFINITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL MILE COMES FROM THE ROMAN MILITARY METHOD OF KEEPING TRACK OF HOW FAR A SOLDIER HAD TRAVELLED ON FOOT. THE LATIN 'MILLE PASSUS' MEANS A 'THOUSAND PACES' WHERE ONE PACE EQUALS TWO STEPS.