



Globes in the Collection

Globe Clock and Sundial, Dial by Ulrich Schniep, French and German, 16th-Century Inventory No. 45681

This is fine example of an unusual timepiece of the 16th-century (1555) which takes the form of a globe. The globe-clock is French, and mounted upon it is a German scaphe-dial (sundial).

The movement (which is inside the globe) is of steel and brass; the globe is of gilt copper and the stand gilt brass. It is driven by a verge escapement with balance-wheel and balance spring. When the movement is going, the globe revolves and the time is indicated by the fixed pointer in front of the globe.

There are three hour-scales on the globe: a 24-hour scale (? for Italian hours) numbered with ordinary European ("Arabic") numerals, a 12-hour scale with Roman numerals and a 12-hour scale with Arabic numerals.

On the globe are engraved the ecliptic, with illustrations and the names of the twelve signs of the Zodiac, the Equator, the Tropics and the Arctic and Antarctic Circles.

The gilt brass scaphe (or cup-dial) is signed, "15*VS*55" [i.e. Ulrich Schniep 1555]. On the inside of the hinged cover is a compass above which there is also a wind-vane. The cover opens to a horizontal position so that the compass may be used to align the scaphe on the meridian. On the outside of the cover is a lunar volvelle and aspectarium, with a surrounding ring for determining Italian and Babylonian hours. The scaphe was, originally, a separate instrument and has been attached to the globe-clock during the present century. The scaphe's support, and the collar engraved "AVG/SBURG] 48[o]" are modern. This instrument was part of the founding collection of Lewis Evans.

