Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Late 19th-Century Chinese Fruitwood Luopan Feng Shui Compass

£95

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REF: 4086

Description

A finely made late 19th-century Chinese luopan feng shui compass, housed in a warm-toned fruitwood frame. Both a practical instrument and an object of cultural significance, the *luopan* has long been used by feng shui practitioners to interpret direction, orientation, and the relationship between a building, its occupants, and the surrounding landscape.

At its centre is a magnetic compass, surrounded by concentric engraved and inscribed rings. These rings traditionally contain directional divisions, cosmological systems, and auspicious formulae used in the complex practice of feng shui. The instrument would have assisted a master in determining the most favourable placement and orientation of a house, tomb, doorway, or interior space.

The fruitwood case gives the compass a particularly appealing warmth and depth, while its compact circular form makes it an attractive object for display. The subtle patina of the wood and the finely detailed dial speak to its age and careful use, preserving the quiet authority of an instrument that was both scholarly and spiritual in purpose.

More than a decorative object, a luopan represents a sophisticated Chinese tradition of geomancy, in which natural forces, cardinal directions, and the built environment were understood as closely connected. This example would make a thoughtful addition to a collection of Chinese works of art, scientific instruments, scholarly objects, or decorative antiques with cultural resonance.

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