

# CHRISTIE'S

THE ART PEOPLE

MEDIA ALERT | SOUTH KENSINGTON | 15 OCTOBER 2015 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## 14<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY SUNDIAL DISCOVERED BY METAL DETECTORIST

To be offered alongside Apple-1 computer  
in *Seven Centuries of Science* auction

[ONLINE-ONLY SALE NOW OPEN FOR BIDDING](#)

15 - 29 October 2015



**London** – This October Christie's presents a new online-only auction, *Seven Centuries of Science*, which offers a curated group of scientific instruments that span the centuries from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The earliest artefact featured in the sale is a medieval sundial, known as an horary quadrant, which was found by a metal detectorist near Chetwode, Buckinghamshire (estimate: £50,000-80,000). Dating to the 14<sup>th</sup> century, it is the oldest English scientific instrument to have been presented for sale at Christie's. The 18 artefacts in the sale tell the story of the history of calculating and computing, from the 'Chetwode' horary quadrant through to the iconic [Apple-1](#) that heralded the revolution in home computing (estimate: £300,000-500,000). Highlights include a rare [Enigma cipher machine](#) (estimate: £80,000-120,000) and a working [wave machine](#) designed by Charles Wheatstone (estimate: £20,000-30,000). Estimates start at £500 and the sale is open for bidding from 15 to 29 October 2015 at [www.christies.com/multidaysales/seven-centuries-of-science](http://www.christies.com/multidaysales/seven-centuries-of-science).

The newly discovered medieval sundial, or quadrant, is marked with lines for unequal hours, to be used as a sundial. It uses unequal hours to tell the time, dividing the amount of daylight as opposed to equal hours, thus rendering winter hours much shorter than summer hours. Only a handful of comparable instruments are known and of this small group the 'Chetwode' horary quadrant is the earliest. Further information about this lot can be viewed [here](#) and an interview with the metal detectorist can be read [here](#).

14<sup>th</sup> Century



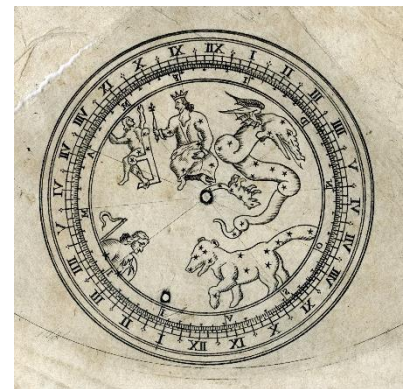
An English Horary Quadrant  
14<sup>th</sup> century  
Estimate: £50,000-80,000

16<sup>th</sup> Century



An Astrolabe Rete  
Attributed to Georg Hartmann, *circa* 1530  
Estimate: £10,000-15,000

17<sup>th</sup> Century



A reverse printed paper quadrant  
Attributed to Walter Hayes (c.1618-1696)  
Estimate: £2,000-3,000

18<sup>th</sup> Century



An English brass sector  
George Adams, mid-18<sup>th</sup> century  
Estimate: £1,000-1,500

19<sup>th</sup> Century



A Wheatstone wave machine  
*circa* 1850  
Estimate: £20,000-30,000

20<sup>th</sup> Century



A rare K-model Enigma Cipher machine  
Heimsoeth & Rinke, *circa* 1936  
Estimate: £80,000-120,000



An Apple-1 Personal Computer  
Palo Alto, 1976  
Estimate: £300,000-500,000



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Further information about the sale can be viewed [here](#)