

PATRICK JEFFERSON



Item	A BRONZE ARCHITECTURAL TRIFORM STAND SUPPORTING A SPHERE
Date	European, early 19th century.
Provenance	Jean-Claude Ciancimino (1931-2014); ex. <i>Every Object Tells a Story</i> , 2017, cat. 314.
Dimensions	Height 8 7/8" (22.5) Sphere 3" (7.5cm) dia
Description	<p><i>The triform stand patinated bronze of a warm chocolate tone; the detachable sphere of a slightly paler colour, extensively marked with small patches of verdigris and evidence of a label, now missing; possibly associated.</i></p> <p>When exhibited at Oliver Hoare's <i>Every Object Tells a Story</i>, 2017, this enigmatic bronze sphere supported on a neoclassical triform stand or table was described as Masonic however the Library and Museum of Freemasonry, London, have never seen anything like this before nor believe it has anything to do with English Freemasonry.</p> <p>As a full sized piece of furniture, this object and a twin might have stood in for the two columns topped with a celestial and terrestrial sphere respectively, that some older lodges have as part of their official furniture, but those would still have to be in the form of columns, not tables, so this is unlikely. Alternatively it may be a model showing off a variant of the more usual globe and stand.</p> <p>It is however conceivable, given the likely Italian origin, that it may have formed part of an arcane Continental rite dating from the 18th century or prior, now forgotten. It is therefore interesting to note that the sphere is extensively scarred with verdigris and of slightly paler colour, raising the possibility that the stand was made specifically to display a much earlier and evidently precious sphere.</p>
Price	£4,500

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