

Pocket Anemometer

by Dave Johnson

In the Summer 2001 issue of Eureka (Issue 37) I wrote an article on anemometers with photographs of many of the varieties manufactured. Since then I have discovered a very interesting anemometer. This unusual and rare piece was manufactured by Short & Mason of London. Short & Mason began making precision instruments in 1875 when Thomas Short and James Mason became partners and opened their business at 40 Hatton Gardens, London. Tycos was added to the Short & Mason name in 1920.



This instrument is the size of a large pocket watch measuring just 2 1/8" in diameter. There are 8 tiny aluminum vanes with the remainder of the instrument being brass. The brass frame that holds the dials and vanes is unusually heavy for such a small piece, considerably heavier than a pocket watch. The front and back are hinged to open to allow air flow and which fold together back to back below the instrument to form a handle that allows for holding the instrument without obstructing air flow. The dial face is just under 1" in diameter, with beveled glass. The name Mason & Short Ltd. appears inside the back cover. This well-made instrument is truly an unusual anemometer and mining collectible.

