

## Fine Furniture and Works of Art (487)

Wed, 5th Apr 2017, Edinburgh

### Lot 439

**Estimate:** £200 - £300 + Fees

#### **SCOTTISH HANDHELD OPTICAL TYPE N RANGEFINDER, BY GEORGE FORBES CIRCA 1900**

with range scale from 500 feet to 10,000 feet, marked FORBES PATENT/ TYPE N/ 12X/ NO. 16, in original leather case marked NO. 16; together with a BRASS HANDHELD OPTICAL RANGEFINDER, 19th century, unsigned, 17.5cm wide; a copy of the HANDBOOK FOR BARR AND STROUD NAVAL RANGE-FINDERS AND MOUNTINGS, 1912, no. 834; and a copy of Moss, Michael and Russell, Iain (1988) RANGE AND VISION: THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS OF BARR & STROUD, Edinburgh: Mainstream Publishing (4)

Provenance: Barr & Stroud, discovered in the large safe in the Chairman's office in the 1990s.

Note: Born in Edinburgh, 1849, George Forbes was a highly influential inventor, scientist and astronomer. His early pioneering research on hydroelectricity led to his appointment as a chief consultant for the Niagara Falls hydroelectricity scheme as well as various other international projects in India, Egypt and New Zealand. Shortly after his travels, Forbes focused his efforts on inventing and designed an infantry rangefinder which was then further developed in 1903 for the British Admiralty. Still in use today, these devices allow the user to accurately calculate their distance to another object in range. Throughout his illustrious career, Forbes received numerous accolades and was a fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the Royal Astronomical Society.

