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Introduction: Astrolabes and Quadrants

We are guardians of the world's most comprehensive collection of astrolabes from the Islamic World, including the:

- only surviving complete spherical astrolabe
- earliest Persian astrolabe
- earliest complete geared astrolabe.

An astrolabe is a map of the sky, showing the position of the stars on a flat disk. There are two main parts — the 'star map' (called a rete) and a projection of the earth's surface. You can move the rete to imitate the regular movement of the stars above our heads; make one full turn, and a day has passed under your hand.



You can use astrolabes to tell the exact time, calculate the hours of prayer, measure height and angles, and even predict the future.









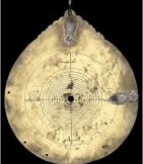
They were popular for more than 1,500 years; in some parts of the world, they were still in use until the early 1900s.










Beautiful works of art in their own right, each astrolabe and quadrant in our collection has a different set of stars, decorative features and intricate details.










Astrolabes





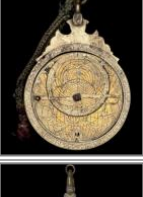




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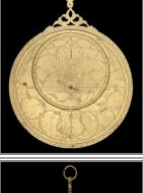


Image	Object details	Inventory number
	Astrolabe by Khafif, Syro-Egyptian Late 9th Century?	47632
	Rete of a ?Syro-Egyptian Astrolabe Syria?, Early 10th Century?	48470










	<p><u>Astrolabe</u> by Ahamad and Muhammad the Sons of Ibrahim Isfahan, 984/5 or 1003/4</p>	33767
	<p><u>Astrolabe</u> by Ibrahim ibn Sa'id al-Sahli Toledo, 1068</p>	55331
	<p><u>Astrolabe</u> by Muhammad ibn Sa'id as-Sabban Guadalajara, 1081/2</p>	52473
	<p><u>Astrolabe with Universal Projection</u> North African, 13th Century?</p>	41122
	<p><u>Astrolabe</u> by Muhammad ibn Fattuh al-Khama'iri Seville, 1221/2</p>	44141
	<p><u>Astrolabe with Geared Calendar</u> by Muhammad b. Abi Bakr Isfahan, 1221/2</p>	48213
	<p><u>Astrolabe</u> by Muhammad ibn Fattuh al-Khamairi Seville, 1224/5</p>	50934
	<p><u>Astrolabe with Lunar Mansions</u> by Abd al-Karim Jazira (Mesopotamia)?, 1227/8</p>	37148
	<p><u>Astrolabe</u> by Hasan `Ali Egyptian, 1282/3</p>	49861





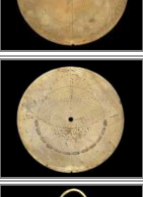





	<u>Hispano-Moorish Astrolabe</u> Spain?, c. 1300	45307
	<u>Astrolabe</u> North African, 14th Century?	53556
	<u>Fake? Persian Astrolabe</u> 14th Century?	41106
	<u>Astrolabe with Universal Lamina</u> by `Ali ibn Ibrahim al-Harrar Taza, Morocco, 1327/8	50853
	<u>Spherical Astrolabe</u> by Musa Eastern Islamic, 1480/81	49687
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by Shams ad-din Muhammad Saffar Persian, 1481/2	39063
	<u>Astrolabe</u> Persian, 15th or 16th Century	41261
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by Shams ad-din Muhammad Saffar Persian, 1505/6	51182
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by Allah-dad Lahore, c. 1570	47376










	<p><u>Astrolabe</u> by Muhammad Amin ibn Amirza Khan an-Nakha'i Persian, 1587/8</p>	52399
	<p><u>Astrolabe</u> North African Late 16th or Early 17th Century</p>	37527
	<p><u>Astrolabe</u> Indo-Persian 17th Century</p>	33796
	<p><u>Astrolabe</u> Indo-Persian 17th Century</p>	33411
	<p><u>Astrolabe</u> Turkish, 17th Century?</p>	53307
	<p><u>Astrolabe</u> Persian, 17th Century</p>	54607
	<p><u>Astrolabe</u> Indo-Persian c. 1600</p>	34611
	<p><u>Astrolabe</u> by Qa'im Muhammad Lahore, 1634/5</p>	42730
	<p><u>Astrolabe</u> Eastern Islamic? Before 1636</p>	47063


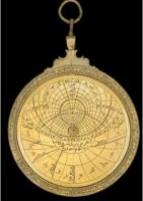




	<u>Astrolabe</u> by Ibrahim ibn Sharaf ad-din Husayn Persian, 1641	43148
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by Muhammad Muqim Lahore, 1641/2	46935
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by Muhammad Muqim Lahore, 1643/4	43704
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by Muhammad Muqim al-Yazdi Persian, 1647/8	45747
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by 'Ibn Muhibb Haqqa Indo-Persian, 1647/8	52066
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by Muhammad Muqim Lahore, c. 1650	37530
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by Muhammad Mahdi al-khadim Persian, c. 1650	41110
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by Muhammad Mahdi al-khadim al-Yazdi Persian, c. 1650	41763
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by Muhammad Mahdi al-Khadim al-Yazdi Persian, c. 1650	50122

	<u>Astrolabe</u> by Muhammad Mahdi al-Yazdi Persian, c. 1650	50143
	<u>Astrolabe</u> Indo-Persian, c. 1650	54063
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by Diya al-din ibn Qaim Muhammad Indo-Persian, 1653/4	38862
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by Diya al-Din Muhammad Lahore, 1658/9	53637
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by Muhammad Mahdi al-Yazdi Persian, c. 1660	45581
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by Muhammad Mahdi al-Yazd Persian, c. 1660	46886
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by Muhammad Salih Tatawi Indo-Persian, Thatta, 1666/7	33474
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by Muhammad Amin Persian, 1673/4	35565
	<u>Astrolabe</u> Turkish, 1678	43559

	<u>Astrolabe</u> by Qassim `Ali Qa'inbi Persian, 1682	45509
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by Adbullah ibn Sasi North African, 1687/8	45220
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by Khalil Muhammad ibn Hasan `Ali Persian, c. 1700	42649
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by Khalil Muhammad ibn Hasan `Ali and `Abd al-A'imma, Persian, Early 18th Century	33739
	<u>Astrolabe</u> North African Early 18th Century?	34314
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by `Abd al-Ali Persian, Early 18th Century	36247
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by `Abd al-`Ali Persian, Early 18th Century	37940
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by Fadl `Ali Persian, Possibly Early 18th Century	38235
	<u>Astrolabe</u> Persian?, Possibly 18th Century	49300




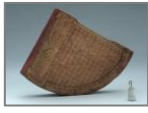
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by Khalil Muhammad and `Abd al-A'imma Persian c. 1700	35313
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by Khalil Muhammad ibn Hasan `Ali and Abd al-A'imma Persian, c.1700	50987
	<u>Astrolabe</u> Persian?, 18th Century	50180
	<u>Astrolabe Template</u> Persian, 18th Century?	52332
	<u>Astrolabe Plate</u> Indo-Persian?, 18th Century?	41524
	<u>Astrolabe Plate</u> Indo-Persian?, 18th Century?	88453
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by 'Abd al-A'imma, Persian, Early 18th Century	37321
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by 'Abd al-A'imma Persian, Early 18th Century	40833
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by 'Abd al-A'imma Persian, Early 18th Century	43739
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by `Abd al-A'imma Persian, 1703/4	54193

	<u>Astrolabe</u> by `Abd al-`Ali Persian, 1707/8	40330
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by Khalil Muhammad and Abd al-A'imma Persian, 1707/8	46680
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by Muhammad Tahir Persian, c. 1710	46836
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by `Abd al-A'imma Persian, c. 1710	48701
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by `Abd al-A'imma Persian, 1712/13	40744
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by `Adbi Turkish, 1713/14	39955
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by `Abd al-A'imma Persian, 1719/20	46681
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by Muhammad ibn Ahmad al-Battuti North African, 1728/9	52713
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by Muhammad ibn Ahmad al-Battuti North African, 1733/4	51459

	<u>Astrolabe</u> by Sayyid 'Abd al-Baqi Indo-Persian, 1789/90	50059
	<u>Astrolabe</u> North African Late 18th Century?	40407
	<u>Astrolabe</u> North African, c. 1800?	41460
	<u>Astrolabe</u> by Shaykh Sakkut Turkish, c. 1800?	47792
	<u>Astrolabe</u> North African Late 19th Century	47714
	<u>Modern Fake Persian-type Astrolabe</u>	54545

Quadrants

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Image	Object details	Inventory number
	Astrolabe-Quadrant by Muhammad (Mehmet) ?Turkish, 1749-50 CE	32534
	Horary Disc and Quadrant North African 1782/3	19453
	Astrolabe Quadrant, Profatius-Type by 'Abdallah Ahmad b. 'Ali al-Andalusi Morocco?, 1804 CE	54673
	Horary and Sinecal Quadrant Turkish 1925/6	35612

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