



## Globes in the Collection

### ***Selenographia Moon Globe, by John Russell, London, 1797 Inventory No. 52085***



John Russell was an artist who established himself as a society portraitist in the latter half of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century. He trained under Francis Cotes RA, one of the pioneers of English pastel painting, and set up his own studio in London in 1767. He was also interested in astronomy and was a friend of Sir William Herschel. Using a Herschel telescope he made detailed studies of the surface of the moon from which he engraved plates to create the gores for the lunar globe. He also created a large pastel drawing of the surface of the moon which now hangs in the Museum.

[Ref:[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Russell\\_painter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Russell_painter)]

This is a printed moon globe with mechanical stand to display lunar libration (an apparent oscillation of the moon as viewed from the earth). There is a small rotating earth globe close to the lunar surface. If this is meant to represent the apparent size of the earth as viewed from the moon, then it must be based on the angle subtended at the centre of the moon rather than at its surface.

The globe came from the Radcliffe Observatory, Oxford, and was presented by the Radcliffe Trustees in 1933. It is on display at the Museum.

