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STEELYARD, IRON INLAID WITH BRASS

MIDDLE EAST; 18TH-19TH CENTURY

L: 27.3 CM

Easily transportable steelyards are still used extensively in the Islamic countries. The object to be weighed is attached to the two hooks at the end of the chains. The steelyard is held in one hand using one of the two hooks on the steelyard's arm, depending on how heavy the object is.

A weight (which is missing here) can then be pushed back and forth on the long arm until the steelyard is in balance, and the exact weight of the material can be found on the inscribed scale.

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