



A rare lunar relief globe

WIGHTMAN, A. J.

[A hand-made 12" lunar relief globe.]

Penzance: Lunasphere Productions Ltd. 1969. 30cm (12") diameter, fibreglass sphere with white painted highlights, lettered with Letraset and painted mss, seated in plastic cradle. With the original illustrated cardboard box, four copies of a Letraset sheet for adding white names to the globe, and the 4pp. prospectus for Wightman's globes.

£3,750

A rare lunar globe with raised relief, handmade by Arthur Wightman in Cornwall during the excitement of the race to put the first man on the Moon. The globe was carefully cast to show the relief of craters and other features of the surface, brushed with white paint to show debris fields from such events. The American unmanned 'Surveyor' and 'Ranger' landing sites are marked with yellow squares; the Russian unmanned 'Lunar' sites are marked in red; the manned 'Apollo' missions (11 and 12, both 1969) are marked in blue. The Letraset sheet could be used label the globe, with the results of future missions. Wightman's prototype, which took two years to create, was based on thousands of photographs supplied by NASA and was regarded as the most detailed plotting of the Moon available, including even the Dark Side. Wightman sold three sizes, 8", this 12" and 24" globes, with customers including NASA itself as well as Frank Borman, captain of Apollo 8. A film in the Associated press online archive called 'The Man Who Sold the Moon' made by British Movietone in 1969, gives a fascinating behind the scenes glimpse of his



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workshop. (See <https://newsroom.ap.org/editorial-photos-videos/detail?itemid=bfd9faa5d9e14877aa080a84d15c429e&mediatype=video&source=youtube>). The 24" played a cameo role in the James Bond movie 'Diamonds are Forever' in 1971.

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