Columbus Illuminated Globe

Sold



REF: 83450

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Height: 50 cm (19.7")

Width: 37 cm (14.6")

Depth: 35 cm (13.8")

Description

A glass, wood and aluminium Illuminated Columbus Globe.

The Illuminated Globe was an innovation by the German Columbus company in the 1920s. The glass globe has 12 paper gores and is supported on an aluminium axis and half meridian on a low stepped wooden base. The base is painted to a high finish to give a lacquered appearance. The globe has been rewired following the original path through the side of the base, up through the base column and out of its top to enter the globe close to the bottom of the axis. The on / off switch is on the base close to where the wire enters.

The Columbus company, established by Paul and Peter Oestergaard in 1909, was built on making globes affordable to the general public. They were, and still are, a very forward-thinking company and the Illuminated Globe exemplifies this. It was a great success from the start. It can be used with or without the light bulb on but when on the globe is naturally easier to read and gives a room a warm glow and a focal point.

The details of "Dr R. Neuse Columbus Globe, Columbus Verlag Paul Oestergaard K. G. Berlin und Stuttgart. Made In Germany." is written around a cartouche detailing United Kingdom Sole Agents of Geographia Ltd, 167 Fleet Str., London E.C. 4. By 1919 Columbus was producing globes in 24 languages. Geographia Ltd was founded in 1911 by Alexander Gross as map publishers. They started at 33 Strand before moving to 55 Fleet Street around 1937. They moved to the address on this globe of 167 Fleet Street by 1942 before moving again to 114 Fleet Street in 1964. In 1948 Colombus moved their factory to Stuttgart, which is also noted on this globe, due to the bombing of their Berlin premises during WW II.

An anomaly to the dating of this globe is that Iran is shown as Persia despite the name changing in 1935. The Stuttgart address for Columbus and 167 Fleet Street address for Geographia along with Germany still as one country and Israel shown points the date to 1948.

This Globe is a good size and can be used both on a desk or a lamp table to light up a room. Circa 1948.

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