

Regulator Longcase Clock by Spencer & Perkins, London



A fine and very small regulator longcase clock from the early Regency period, made by the eminent makers Spencer and Perkins, London. Dated c.1800.

Standing just 6 feet 3 inches tall, the elegant, the well proportioned solid mahogany case is in outstanding original condition with an excellent finish, colour and patination. It has a thick oak backboard, shaped trunk door with glazed brass-edged aperture, to display the compensated pendulum and brass-bound weight.

The substantial 8 day duration 5 pillar movement has a dead beat escapement and the unusual feature of bolt and shutter maintaining power. This is activated by a lever discredited behind the hood door, the shutter to limit the dust that may get into the movement. The wheel work is very fine. The mercury compensated pendulum mounting block is mounted across the plates.

The small 10-inch silvered dial has the conventional longcase centre hour and minutes hands, but in addition has a rare feature of a centre sweep seconds hand. The dial is well engraved and signed *SPENCER AND PERKINS, LONDON*.

Height: 6ft 3 inches
Width: 16 3/4 inches
Depth: 9 inches

Spencer and Perkins are listed as working from 1722-1808 from various London addresses - 44 Snow Hill nr. Newgate 1772-1802, 115 Newgate Street 1802-1808. [source: *Britten's Old Clocks & Watches and Their Makers*]

It is usual for regulators in this early "Dutton" style of case to be smaller than 6 feet 6 inches, with light movements such as this clock. In this period it was only those regulators made for observatories that had substantial movements. Later, more substantial movements became more

commonplace for domestic use as well.