Primary Maker: Nicolas Bion
Title: Butterfield dial and case
Date: 1685–1715
Medium: Silver, glass, wood, leather, velvet
Dimensions: Overall (dial): 1/4 × 2 5/8 × 2 1/4 in. (0.6 × 6.7 × 5.7 cm) Container (case): 1/2 × 3 × 2 5/8 in. (1.3 × 7.6 × 6.7 cm)
Credit Line: Gift of the Half Moon Committee of the Hudson-Fulton Exhibition, 1909
Object Number: 1910.32ab

Object Name: Butterfield dial and case
Classification: MARITIME TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

Curatorial Remarks:
The numbers engraved adjacent to city names on the reverse of this object indicate their latitude.

Physical Description:
Octagonal Butterfield dial with elaborate engraved markings on front and back; circular compass encased in silver, with face visible through glass window in surface of sundial; folding gnomon with shaped edge, intricately detailed engraving, and hinge in the form of a bird; octagonal red leather covered case with beige velvet lining.

Inscribed: Handwritten in ink on inside edge of lid: "B v B."
Markings: Engraved on obverse, near center (twice): "40 degre"; engraved on obverse, on two edges of octagon: "Pour 55"; engraved on reverse, bottom edge: "N. BION A PARIS"; engraved on reverse, in concentric circles: "Marseille 43 Varsovie 52 Amsterdam 52 Strasbourg 49 / Bruxelle 51 Bordeaux 45 Copenhague 56 / Venise 45 Toulouze 43"; engraved on reverse, left side: "Paris 49 / Lion 46 / Geneve 46 / Cologne 51 / la Rochelle 46 / Donkerque 51 / Londres 52 / Naples 41 / Rome 42"; engraved on reverse, right side: "... est 48 / Basle 48 / Gennes 44 / Bayonne 43 / Hambourg 54 / Grenoble 45 / Stokolm 59 / Vienne 49 / Dijon 47"; engraved on reverse, on two upper edges of octagon: "Milan 46" and "Turin 44"

Related Objects: