

ALTAZIMUTH 地平经仪



The Altazimuth was completed in 1673, the 12th year of the Kangxi Emperor's reign in the Qing Dynasty. It is one of the instruments designed by Ferdinand Verbiest and was used to measure the position of celestial bodies relative to the celestial horizon and the zenith. Thus it is an altitude azimuth. Its structure was based on the Tychoonian instrument but there is no instrument made by Tycho Brahe that is exactly similar. The Altazimuth is decorated with typical Chinese art design—5 bronze dragons forming the supports.

地平经仪：

地平经仪的主体是一个直径六尺二寸，宽二寸四分的铜制地平圈。地平圈内设有一个东西向的通路，中间是一个圆盘，用云柱来支撑。用于测量的横表，长和地平圈的外径相齐，可绕中心在圈面上移动。

地平圈的四隅设有龙柱，南西北三面为屈身而立的苍龙，东面是铸造略粗的云柱，四个柱脚立于十字交梁上。在东西云柱上有两条升龙盘蜒而上，在距地平圈约四尺高处龙身弯曲，龙头相对，各伸一爪共捧一火珠，呈优美的二龙戏珠之势。火珠的中心上对天顶，下与地平圈的中心之间设一中空的立表，直对地心。立表之间连一直线，并从立表的上端引两条线斜贯于横表的两端。在测星时，移动横表，使三条线与待测的天体位于同一平面上，这样横表所指的地平圈上的度数，就是待测天体的地平经度。