

Sundial of the month February

Isn't it a darling?

Armillary sundial, Pieterskerk, Utrecht

In Utrecht, bishop BERNOLD in 1039 began the realisation of an ideal: a cross of churches with the Dom as the centre. It was unique for Holland; only in Germany (in Paderborn and Bamberg), similar projects were completed. In Utrecht, three of these medieval churches are present in full splendour. Smallest is the Pieterskerk and it is unknown if it ever had a sundial.

In Utrecht, there are "church days" in summer, on which these churches may be visited all day. I do this every year, because it is so interesting.

On my last visit to the Pieterskerk, I walked into the small garden beside the church and saw the armillary sundial shown here. I took to it at once.



It was not another mass-produced armillary, it was clear that this soccer-ball-sized sundial was carefully crafted. Unfortunately the pole style was not in the meridian plane, and I reported that to the church administrator.

He told me that this sundial was made early last century for a lawyer on the occasion of an office jubilee. The lawyer left the sundial testamentary to the Pieterskerk.

Later, with the help of the administrator, I have fixed the armillary dial in its correct position.

It is not a very important sundial, but it moves me.

PIETERSKERK now has a correct sundial after all.

Hans de Rijk

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