

LATE 19TH CENTURY ENGLISH BRASS AND MARBLE BALANCE SCALE FROM BRISTOL

$1,200

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This elegant antique balance scale was crafted in Bristol, England, in the late 19th century, circa 1880–1890, and represents the high level of precision engineering associated with English scientific and apothecary instruments of the period. The scale stands on a substantial cast iron base with gilt-highlighted detailing, supporting a turned brass column topped with an ornate openwork iron finial. The horizontal brass beam is finely constructed with adjustable fittings and suspends two contrasting weighing elements: a circular veined white marble platform on one side and a brass hanging pan with chain suspension on the other, complete with a brass counterweight. The interplay of blackened iron, warm brass, and veined marble creates a visually striking and well-balanced composition that is both functional and decorative. This antique scale remains in very good condition commensurate with age and use, displaying a rich, time-softened patina throughout, light wear to the brass pan consistent with use, and intact mechanical components. Originally intended for precise weighing in an apothecary or laboratory setting, the scale now serves beautifully as a decorative object and conversation piece for a kitchen, library, or display shelf. Dimensions: 25" W x 10" D x 30.75" H

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