

Silver Curling Medal, Royal Caledonian Curling Club

£750



REF: 31690

Height: 8.5 cm (3.3")

Width: 6 cm (2.4")

Depth: 0.5 cm (0.2")

Description

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An unused, silver, curling 'Province Medal' with ribbon bar from the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. The curling medallion is fully hallmarked, displaying the lion passant for sterling silver, the anchor assay mark for Birmingham, and the date letter "M" corresponding to 1936, along with the maker's mark "J.A.R. Ltd" (J A Restall Ltd). and comes in a SORLEY 107 - 109 West Georges Street, Glasgow cardboard box. The reverse embossed 'Royal Caledonian Curling Club, Instituted 25 July 1838, the front depicts a curling match in play with the Scotland Coat of arms surrounded by thistles. The coat of arms with national motto of the Kingdom of Scotland 'Nemo Ne Impune Lacessit' - 'No One Provokes Me With Impunity'. The ribbon bar is connected to the medal with two crossed curling brushes (also known as besom, brush, corn broom or besum). A wonderful piece of curling history.

The exact origins of curling are unclear but it is known to have a long history in Scotland, and it was through Scottish immigrants that the game of curling spread to other parts of the world. Early curling was an outdoor sport that was played on frozen lochs and ponds. Because of the unpredictable weather artificial curling rinks were being made to make a little frost go a long way. Concrete rinks were flooded with small amounts of water so they would freeze solid after a night of frost, thus having a rink to play on when the frozen lochs or ponds were unsafe. The first Curling Clubs were formed in Scotland as were the first rules to standardize curling and its equipment. The Grand Caledonian Curling Club was founded in Edinburgh in 1838, they formally adopted these new rules and became the sport's governing body. They heavily supported the use of round granite stones and rather than eight players each throwing a single stone it changed to a team of four players using two matched stones each. Four years later, in 1843, Her Majesty Queen Victoria so fascinated by the game demonstrated on the polished floor of the ballroom of Sccone Palace near Perth she granted the Club the title of Royal Caledonian Curling Club. Curling was firmly established in Canada by the Scots with The Royal Montreal Curling Club being established in 1807, the oldest sports club still active in North America.