



Bramble Golf Ball, Fife 27
St. Mungo

£600



REF: 30872

Diameter: 4.3 cm (1.7")

Description

Antique Gutter Golf Ball, 'Fife 27 ½'.

A very nice example of a 'Fife 27 ½' gutta-percha golf ball with moulded bramble pattern. The gutter golf ball is manufactured by St. Mungo Manufacturing, Broomloan Road, Govan, Glasgow & 121 - 123 Sylvan Avenue, North Newark, New Jersey. The gutter golf ball is with the ball name 'Fife 27 ½' in raised lettering on a flat circular band on both poles of the ball, inner circle containing seven brambles. The DWT number (27½ on this ball) on old gutter golf balls refers to pennyweights (dwt), a unit of weight from the apothecaries' system. In the 19th century, gutter balls-particularly gutta-percha ("gutter") balls-were sometimes marked or described by their weight in dwt, a standard gutter ball often weighed around 26-28 dwt (? 40-44 grams). Since consistency of size and weight was a big issue before standardisation, these markings helped golfers know what they were getting.

The ball is approximately 4.3 cm in diameter.

The solid gutter golf ball replaced the feathery ball because of its cost effectiveness, as a gutter could be rolled in a matter of minutes, and slowly the game of golf became affordable to the masses. The 'Gutter' era lasted from around 1848 well into 1900's.

To make a gutter golf ball first the gutta-percha was heated and loosely rolled into a ball shape. The ball was then put into the mould and then placed into a press. The press would imprint the pattern onto the ball and the excess would squeeze out of the sides. The seams were then trimmed when cool, leaving a hard and non-brittle "Gutter" golf ball. The durability of the gutta along with its lower costs and better play rejuvenated the game of golf.

Gutta-percha is the evaporated latex produced from a tree, mostly found in Malaysia.