



Gutta Percha Bramble Golf Ball

£120



Description

Gutta Percha Golf Ball, The Granton.

A moulded bramble patterned Gutta Percha golf ball called 'The Granton'. The gutty golf ball is in used condition but still with some of the original white paint. The name of the ball (The Granton) is on both poles and was manufactured by the Silvertown Company, circa 1880.

The ball is approximately 1 5/8 inch in diameter (4.2 cm).

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

The Silvertown Company has been known under several names in its history. The Rubber & Gutter Percha Company, British Tire & Rubber Co. and the Telegraph Works Co. (its origin being founded around 1864). The factory at first made mostly cables but began making other products e.g. tyres and golf balls from the 1880's. The company came to the fore in the gutty ball era under the influence of Dr. Rollo Appleyard. It became hugely influential again with Albert E. Penfold (the most important figure in British golf ball manufacture in the 20th century). Penfold's early working years were under the watchful eye of the eminent scientist Dr. Rollo Appleyard. He took a prominent role in research and development and was put in charge of golf ball development in 1911. He quickly put his own unique touch to the designs, getting a patent on his 'mesh' pattern and 'lattice' designs in 1912. Penfold assigned the 'mesh' pattern to The Silvertown Company, but he retained the rights to the 'lattice' design, this importantly would prove integral to the birth of the 'Penfold' brand.

To make a gutty 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 "Gutty" 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.