



Antique Pair Of Williams & Co. Fishtail Lawn Tennis Rackets

Sold



REF: 28377

Height: 68.5 cm (27")

Width: 22 cm (8.7")

Depth: 3 cm (1.2")

Description

Pair Of Williams & Co. Fishtail Handle Tennis Rackets.

A fine pair of 'The Association No.2' fish tail lawn tennis rackets by Williams & Co., Paris. The wooden lawn tennis rackets with nice fishtail handles, in good clean condition, original red and white gut stringing (although distressed condition) with three rows of trebling top and bottom. The ash frames are straight and with walnut convex wedges stamped 'The Association No.2' Williams & Co. Paris', on the reverse side of the wedge it is stamped 'IMPORTE', suggesting this was a French import. One racket is stamped with the weight 13 oz and the other 14½ oz. There is a ink signature 'Joseph Gaide' on one racket and 'J Gaide' on the other.

There are four images from adverts of Williams & Co., 1 Rue Caumartin, Paris.

The fishtail (fish tail) was an innovation in the Victorian period and was an attractive gimmick to help tennis players to grip their rackets. They were manufactured approximately from the 1890's to the 1920's and their shapely handle is always an attraction to the collector.