Nicolls 'White Toe' Cricket Bat

Sold

Manfred Schotten Antiques
109 High Street • Burford • Oxfordshire • OX18 4RG
01993 822 302 • schotten@sportantiques.co.uk

REF: 28541

Height: 85 cm (33.5")

Width: 11 cm (4.3")

Depth: 5.5 cm (2.2")

Description

Vintage Nicolls Cricket Bat.
A good Nicolls willow cricket bat 'White Toe'. The writing on the front of the blade 'NICOLLS, White Toe, Toughened And Damp Proof, Patent No. ??????, Melbourne International Exhibition stamp, Specially Selected Blade, Toughened And Damp Proof Toe'. The rear with the Gray Nicolls Ltd. shield trademark and the words 'Made In England, Gray Nicolls Ltd., Robertsbridge, Sussex'. The toe of the bat with the remains of a white protective cover.
A nice looking bat with good patina and strung cord grip.

L.J. Nicolls, a carpenter by trade, started making bats in 1875 in his workshop in East Sussex (Robertsbridge). These hand made bats were of good quality wood and were well made, quickly making a reputation for himself, from this small beginning the bat factory came to life. Nicolls supplied W.G. Grace with his record-breaking bat with which he scored his 100th century and made 1000 runs in May 1894. From 1926 to 1939 the Nicolls Bat Factory continued to flourish and was famous for its bats all over the world of cricket, but the second World War (WWII) brought changes and the firm merged with H.J. Gray and Sons Ltd and thus became Gray-Nicolls Ltd.

Taken from the Gray-Nicolls website:-

H.J. Gray and Sons was founded in Cambridge by world rackets champion H.J. Gray in 1855 and soon built a reputation supplying rackets to University players such as Ranjitsinjhi and the future King Edward VII. L.J. Nicolls started making bats in 1876 in his workshop in East Sussex; where the company is still based today; and supplied WG Grace with his record-breaking bat with which he scored his 100th century and made 1000 runs in May 1894.
Gray-Nicolls was formed in the 1940's by the merger of two well known cricket bat manufacturers H.J.Gray and Sons, and L.J. Nicolls. At this time the company also acquired the famous brands of Shaw and Shrewsbury and Wainwrights. England captain Wally Hammond and Australian star Keith Miller used Gray-Nicolls.
The brand went from strength to strength in the 1950's and 60's and at one stage the captains of all 5 test playing countries (Ted Dexter, Richie Benaud, Frank Worrell, John Reid, Trevor Goddard) all used Gray-Nicolls. In the 1970's Gray-Nicolls were the first to introduce coloured labels. Top Cricketers using the trend-setting Gray-Nicolls red flash included the Chappell brothers, Clive Lloyd, Tony Greig and Barry Richards. In 1974 the company broke new ground with the introduction of the revolutionary scoop bat. A new Gray-Nicolls factory was opened in Melbourne to supply the growing demand from the Australian and New Zealand markets.
Expansion in the 1980's and 1990's meant Gray-Nicolls had to move to larger premises in Robertsbridge. New innovations included the Dynadrive, Sabre and Millennium bats. Famous names such as David Gower, Robin Smith, David Boon, Javed Miandad, Sunil Gavaskar and Jeff Dujon used Gray-Nicolls and Brian Lara scored the highest ever first class (501) innings with the Scoop 2000.
The new Millennium saw the introduction our unique Carbon & Titanium handles. Successive England Captain's Michael Atherton & Nasser Hussain proudly used Gray-Nicolls throughout their careers. More runs were scored with Gray-Nicolls ...

Manfred Schotten Antiques
109 High Street • Burford • Oxfordshire • OX18 4RG
01993 822 302 • schotten@sportantiques.co.uk