



Antique Slazenger Corbally Croquet Set On F.H Ayres Stand  
Ralph And Albert Slazenger

Sold



REF: 29929

Height: 73 cm (28.7")

Width: 46 cm (18.1")

Depth: 22 cm (8.7")

## Description

Slazenger Croquet Set On Original F.H. Ayres Stand.

A fabulous garden croquet set with four Slazenger 'Corbally' mallets, two made of boxwood with ebony alignment lines and two made of Lignum Vitae with brass banding, all fitted with octagonal scored and grooved hickory handles. The mallet heads have the remains of the decals 'Slazengers Ltd' and 'The Corbally' on them. To complete the set there are four coloured balls in the standard croquet colours, four coloured metal sprung clips, six bent metal hoops and one new winning post. The set is arranged on an old Edwardian croquet stand by F H Ayres Ltd, London. The top with decal 'The International (Registered) No.495323, F.H. Ayres Ltd. London. Stand with curved wooden carry handle , four ball cups and grooves in the base to fit the mallet heads.

The size shown is for the stand, the mallets are approximately 91 cm in length.

There are a couple of images taken from a 1916 Slazenger catalogue showing the 'Corbally' mallet.

The business and factory of F.H. Ayres (Frederick Henry) was situated at Aldegate, London. From the early 1860's the firm built a reputation for its high quality sports goods, boards games and is renowned for their well-crafted rocking horses that they produced until about 1940. Ayres also produced a wide array of toys, parlour and garden games popular of the period including croquet, billiards and chess. Around the 1880's they became great rivals with another large games manufacturer, John Jaques. This meant there were frequent lawsuits being filed in both directions for infringements of patents and copyrights. Towards the end of the 19th century Ayres were probably the leading manufacturer of sports and games equipment in Britain. In 1929 the company were a Listed Exhibitor at the British Industries Fair. They were listed as Manufacturers of Requisites for Tennis, Cricket, Croquet, Golf, Football, Hockey, Badminton, Bowls, Archery, Polo, Racquets, Fives, Skittles, Ski, Toboggans, Sledges, Billiards, Bagatelle, Indoor Games, Gymnastic Apparatus, Fencing, Boxing, Rocking Horses. The 'Maltese Cross' mark of F.H. Ayres was in use from about 1910, they were eventually bought out by Slazenger in the 40's.