1890 Boat Race, Original Cambridge Rowing Oar

Sold

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REF: 29099

Height: 17 cm (6.7")

Width: 375 cm (147.6")

Depth: 10 cm (3.9")

Description

Cambridge University 1890 Boat Race Presentation Oar.
This is a most wonderful memento of the 47th Oxford and Cambridge University boat race in 1890. The traditional presentation trophy oar is the former property of the Cambridge rower, No.3, E. T. Fison of Corpus Christi. Oxford won the race, Cambridge lost by one length. The calligraphy is beautiful and original with no repaint or repair. The oar is painted by Royston with the Cambridge University insignia and with the crew's names and weights, we have added their college and universities in brackets.
The blade reads:-

Cambridge University Crew 1890, Lost by a bare length.
Bow. G. Elin (Eton & 3rd Trinity) 10 st 9¾ lb
2. J. M. Sladen (Harrow & Trinity Hall) 11 st 4¼ lb
3. E. T. Fison (Repton & Corpus Christi) 12 st 6¼ lb
4. J. F. Rowlatt (Fettes & Trinity Hall) 11 st 12 lb
5. A. S. Duffield (Trinity Hall & Rugby) 12 st 9 lb
6. S. D. Muttlebury (Eton & 3rd Trinity) 13 st 9 lb
7. G. Francklyn (Eton & 3rd Trinity) 11 st 12¾ lb
Stroke. J. C. Gardner (Rugby & Emmanuel) 11 st 12 lb
Coxswain. T. W. Northmore (Rossall & Queens') 7 st 11 lb

The umpire for the race for the second year in a row was Frank Willan who won the event four consecutive times, rowing for Oxford in the 1866, 1867, 1868 and 1869 races. Oxford won, they passed the finishing post one length ahead of Cambridge in a time of 22 minutes 3 seconds.
Mr. Muttlebury came up again as president, to row for the fifth year in succession, and for a time it was thought that he alone would rank as the only oarsman in the crew with any experience of the tideway. However, at the eleventh hour Mr. J. C. Gardner came up to relieve the President of his difficulty in finding a suitable stroke. On arriving at Putney they were by no means a bad crew, and were powerful but rather short, whilst their watermanship was not as good as it might have been, especially in rough water. Cambridge, who started slight favourites, more from the prestige of Mr. Muttlebury and their four consecutive wins than from any superiority in practice over Oxford, won the toss and chose the Surrey shore. There was a strong west wind blowing, which gave the Surrey shore considerable advantage from Hammersmith Bridge to the finish. Cambridge got off at the faster rate, rowing 40 to Oxford's 38, and soon gained a slight lead. At Craven Steps they were a quarter of a length up, but Oxford hung on to them with the greatest tenacity, and at the Crab Tree the positions of the boats were exactly the same. Off Harrod's, where the bend began to tell in their favour, they went up very slowly, though not by so much as the actual advantage of the station. Shooting Hammersmith Bridge, they were half a length ahead, and then with Oxford coming into the rougher stuff and with the corner still against them, they went ahead more rapidly. They reached their greatest lead at the Doves, where they were practically clear. As soon as they both straightened into Chiswick Reach they found the wind dead ahead, so that Cambridge did not get quite so much shelter from their station, and Oxford crept up stroke by stroke, still rowing at the slower rate. At Chiswick St...

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