



Original 1863 University Boat Race Oar

Sold



REF: 27614

Height: 381 cm (150")

Width: 13 cm (5.1")

Depth: 5.5 cm (2.2")

Description

Oxford University Boat Race Oar 1863.

This is the most wonderful memento of the 1863 Oxford and Cambridge University boat race. The traditional presentation trophy oar is the former property of the Oxford rower, No.5 Allan Morrison. The calligraphy is beautiful and original with no repaint or repair. The oar painted with the crew's names, weights and colleges and comes with an un-framed triptych photograph of the 1863 crew, dated and inscribed with their names.

The oar reads:-

PUTNEY 1863

1. R. Shepherd, B.N.C.. 11st.0lbs
2. F.H. Kelly,. Univ..11.5
3. W.B.R. Jacobson, Ch.Ch. 12.4
4. W.B. Woodgate, B.N.C.. 11.11
5. A. Morrison, Balliol. 12st.4lbs
6. W. Awdry,..Balliol.11.4
7. C.R. Carr,..Wadham. 11.3
8. W.M. Hoare,.Exeter., 11.7
- F.E. Hopwood,.Ch.Ch. (Cox.), 8st.4lbs

Morrison was also on the victorious side the year before and that oar is also available, as is the 1862 winning silk pennant that was awarded to the non-rowing president for the race, Allan's brother, George.

This was the 20th boat race between the crews from Oxford and Cambridge Universities. It took place on the River Thames on 28 March 1863.

The winners, Oxford, won by 15 lengths with a time of 23 minutes and 6 seconds. The race took place in ebb tide for the third time with the course starting from Mortlake and finishing in Putney. This race brought the overall score to 10 wins each.

Taken from Wikipedia.

The Oxford crew averaged over 6 feet (1.83 m) in height, and weighed an average of 11 st 8.5 lb (73.5 kg), 2.75 pounds (1.2 kg) per rower more than their Light Blue opposition. Six of the Oxford crew had represented their university in the previous year's race, including W. M. Hoare who was rowing at stroke for the third time. The Cambridge boat contained two members of the 1862 crew, including William Cecil Smyly and John Graham Chambers.

Oxford, who were clear pre-race favourites, won the toss and elected to start from the Middlesex station, handing the Surrey side of the river to Cambridge. Like the 1856 race, the race was conducted on the ebb tide, and the start was moved to Barker's Rails, to "give the steamers room between the Aqueduct and the crews". The start of the race was delayed for around half an hour as a result of a number of steamers impinging upon the course. The future British King, Edward VII, was in attendance. At the time of the race, there was a mild breeze and the water was "perfect, but for the steamers."

Cambridge made the better start, but Oxford's steady rowing brought them level and within 300 yards (270 m) of the start, they were nearly half-a-length up on the Light Blues. By Craven Steps, they were clear and two lengths up by the Mile Post. Oxford crossed over to row directly in front of Cambridge, and according to MacMichael, "it was evident here that the race was over, barring accidents." The Dark Blues were three lengths up as they shot Barnes Bridge and won by fifteen lengths. It was Oxford's third consecutive victory and took the overall total to ten wins each, the first time since the 1856 race that the scores were tied.