Schotten

Oxford University Rowing Oar

Sold

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REF: 26912

Height: 15 cm (5.9")

Width: 366 cm (144.1")

Depth: 10 cm (3.9")

Description

Oxford University Presentation Oar, Trophy Blade, 1930.
The full length oar is an original traditional St. Peter's Hall (Oxford University) presentation rowing oar with gilt calligraphy. The writing on the trophy blade is in good condition. The oar is numbered 4 so could well have belonged to W.L. Owen as that was his position.

The trophy blade reads:-

'St. Peter's Hall Torpid 1930'
Bow. J.A. Harlow, 10.8
2. C. Parker, 10.8
3. J.G. Wood, 12.3
4. W.L. Owen, 11.0
5. F. Lawrence, 12.4
6. L.I.O. Williams, 12.4
7. R. Campbell, 12.4
Str. L.O. Kenyon, 12.9
Cox. M.L. Harvey, 8.9
Bumped:- St. John's II, Keble II, Worcester II, Oriel II, Exeter II, Ch: Ch: II.

This oar has been cut by the leather sleeve and collar to make shipping easier. It has been pegged and can be reassembled by means of a threaded rod with nuts and washers (see images).

Both Oxford and Cambridge Universities host university bumps races, Oxford since 1815, Cambridge 1827. They generally last for around four days and one is held in early spring and one in early summer. At Oxford they are called "Torpids" and "Summer Eights", Cambridge "Lent Bumps" and "May Bumps".

'Bumping' is a rowing race in which a number of boats chase each other in single file. Competing boats start the race lined up in order, one behind another, with gaps of about 1 ½ boat lengths between the bow of one boat and the stern of the one in front. The race is started by the firing of a cannon. Each crew attempting to progress up their division by catching and hitting ('bumping') the boat in front, without being hit from behind. The ultimate aim of the race to become "Head Of The River" i.e. top of the first division. Bumping races evolved in Oxford as the river is too narrow for normal side by side racing.

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