

Rowing Rudder And Team Photograph

£750



REF: 31924

Height: 28 cm (11")

Width: 50 cm (19.7")

Depth: 34 cm (13.4")

Description

Cambridge University - First Trinity III Rowing Rudder & Team Photograph, 1932.

A wonderful and highly evocative original 1932 Cambridge University May Bumps rowing commemorative, comprising the presentation rudder and accompanying crew photograph from First Trinity Boat Club, Trinity College, Cambridge.

These pieces were formerly the property of W.H.J. Mercer, cox of the First Trinity III crew.

The traditional wooden presentation rudder retains its original varnished finish with gilt calligraphic decoration and the insignia of First Trinity Boat Club. There is some bubbling to the varnish and minor loss to the painted crest, however all crew names and weights remain clearly legible. The accompanying double photograph features, to the right, the crew seated in their boat, and to the left a formal posed group photograph outside the boathouse. The original mount bears the college crest together with the calligraphic title: First Trinity 3rd May Boat 1932, and records the names and weights of the crew, coaches, and the colleges bumped during the races.

Crew

Bow - H.G. Preston - 11 st. 3 lbs.

2 - J.H. Wright - 10 st. 12 lbs.

3 - C. Beale - 11 st. 3 lbs.

4 - J. Davidson - 11 st. 13 lbs.

5 - H.T. Stott - 12 st. 6 lbs.

6 - W.L. Addison - 11 st. 10 lbs.

7 - J.A.L. Brutton - 12 st. 1 lb.

Stroke - J.R.D. Walker - 10 st. 8 lbs.

Cox - W.H.J. Mercer - 8 st. 6 lbs.

Coaches

Rev. E.M. Gresford-Jones

E.P. Kenrick

Colleges Bumped

Emmanuel II

Queens' II

Downing I

Christ's II

The size quoted is for the rudder. The framed photograph measures 42 cm high by 83 cm wide.

In both Oxford and Cambridge Universities, any crew which records four consecutive bumps is said to have 'gained their oars'. Traditionally, each rower received a full-sized painted oar decorated in college colours with the crew names in gilt lettering. The cox received a decorated rudder, while the coach was presented with a painted wooden shield in the form of a boat's bow section.

Both Oxford and Cambridge Universities hold annual bumps races, each lasting several days. The races are for eights (i.e. eight rowers and a cox), each representing one of the university's various colleges. One of the races is held in early spring and the other in early summer. In Cambridge these are the Lent Bumps and the May Bumps; in Oxford they are known as Torpids and Eights. The leading crews of the Lent Bumps

go on to race the leading Oxford Torpids crews at the Henley Boat Races around Easter. The first attested bumps race took place in Oxford in 1815 and was between two eights from Brasenose College and Jesus College. Twelve years later Lent Bumps racing commenced at Cambridge University. As the Isis and Cam are long narrow rivers, not ideal for normal side by side racing, Bumps racing evolved. The competing crews line up bow-to-stern in order, one behind the other with gaps of about 1½ boat lengths between them. The start of the race commences with the firing of a cannon, the idea to progress up their division by attempting to catch and Bump (touch) the boat in front whilst simultaneously trying not to be Bumped by the boat behind. The ultimate aim becoming top of the first d...