



Antique Bronze Cricket Figures, Father & Son Cricket Statue

Sold



REF: 28486

Height: 22 cm (8.7")

Width: 14 cm (5.5")

Depth: 19.5 cm (7.7")

## Description

Reduced from £3,800 to £3,300

Young Boy Cricketer, Bronze Cricket Study.

A beautifully executed bronze study sculpture of a young boy cricketer, he is being taught by his tutor, possibly a father & son. The bronze cricket statue on oval base with light even brown patina mounted onto a moulded octagonal oak plinth with engraved plaque. The wonderful cricket bronze was used as a prize for a school uniform contest in 1952. The engraved plaque reads 'CLYDELLA', SCHOOLWEAR DISPLAY CONTEST 1952, AWARDED TO THE WINNERS, COBLEY'S LTD., HOVE'.

Clydella is the trademarked name for a type of woven cotton and wool fabric produced by the firm William Hollins & Co. It was milled near Glasgow on the banks of the river Clyde where it takes its name from. Hollins made a fabric called 'Viyella' developed by James and Robert Sissons which was the first branded fabric in England woven in 1893. Clydella was a cheaper alternative, made with less cotton (81 per cent), and was developed for military uniforms for the first World War.

Cobley's - George Cobley came to Hove at the age of fourteen and was educated at Hove College. In the 1920's when he was just nineteen he opened a gentleman's outfitters in a small shop at 138 Church Road - there was no room to swing the proverbial cat because the establishment was a mere 11-ft wide. His brother Frank Cobley joined him in the enterprise. Cobley's, in a similar way to Combridge's, flourished during the Second World War supplying uniforms to the thousands of men attending HMS King Alfred. Presumably, these uniforms were for the cadet ratings, because if and when they became officers, there were accredited Naval tailors on hand.

During the war George Cobley held an ATC commission for five years. In 1947 at the age of 44 he became a magistrate, and he went on to serve as a J. P. for 26 Years. In 1950 he became chairman of Brighton & Hove Chamber of Commerce and Trade.

By 1958 the Cobley brothers had expanded their business to cover four shops, and eventually they had ten shops in Sussex and Kent employing over 100 staff members. In the 1960's they launched a successful boutique in Western Road, Brighton, called Gog.

In 1979 Cobley's merged with Fairdale Textiles; George Cobley became managing director, his brother Frank was personnel director, while his son Gary became financial director. There were fifteen directors, - two-thirds of them family members. There were branches in Brighton, Tonbridge, Horsham, Tunbridge Wells, Worthing, and Winchester, employing 130 staff members. In 1981 the firm was taken over by Moss Bros. In January 1994 George Cobley died at the age of ninety.