Grand National Archery Society Medal. Oxford 1930

£110

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REF: 31401

Height: 10.5 cm (4.1")

Width: 4 cm (1.6")

Depth: 1 cm (0.4")

Description

Vintage Grand National Archery Prize Medal, 1930.
This wonderful Archery Prize Medal is with green ribbon, metal bar and clasp and was awarded for '5th Score'. The obverse features a high-relief portrait of a female head (possibly the Goddess Artemis/Diana), surrounded by the inscription 'GRAND NATIONAL ARCHERY SOCIETY'. Artemis (Greek) and Diana (Roman) are essentially the same goddess, representing amongst many the hunt and wild animals. The reverse, also struck in relief, displays at its centre an archery target with crossed sheaves of six arrows, enclosed within a wreath of thistles. Around the edge, in raised lettering, appears the motto 'UNION TRUE HEART AND COURTESIE'. The ribbon bar is engraved to the rear '5th Score', the medal comes in a protective plastic case.

Grand National Archery Society - Historical Context
The first Grand National Archery Meeting was held on the Knavesmire at York in 1843. However, the Grand National Archery Society itself was not formally founded until 1861, when it met at the Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool. In its early years, the Society focused primarily on organising the Annual National Championships, at a time when it was just one of many independent archery societies. It did not become the governing body for archery in the UK until much later (now known as Archery GB).
Three older and historically significant archery societies - all of which survive today - pre-date the Grand National Archery Society:
The Royal Company of Archers (founded 1676), The Royal Toxophilites (founded 1781) and The Woodmen of Arden (founded 1785).

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