



Jack O' Connor Cricket Bat  
Gray-Nicolls

Sold



REF: 27054

Height: 87 cm (34.3")

Width: 11 cm (4.3")

Depth: 5.5 cm (2.2")

## Description

Nicolls 'Jack O' Connor' Cricket Bat.

A fine Nicolls 'Jack O' Connor' autograph cricket bat. The bat is in good condition with cord grip and an 'Improved Handle'. The shoulders are embossed 'Nicolls' with the Nicolls trade mark shield, Essex.XI, a facsimile autograph of Jack O' Connor, England XI, also embossed on the bat is a 'Melbourne International Exhibition' stamp.

Jack O'Connor, who died in the Forest Hospital, Buckhurst Hill on February 22, aged 79, was a very good country cricketer who was for years on the edge of Test cricket. He played once against South Africa in 1929 and that winter took part in three matches for the M.C.C. in the West Indies, which Wisden then called Representative Matches, but which are now included in the Test records, though the English side could not possibly be described as more than England A. After a modest start for Essex in 1921, O'Connor gained a fairly regular place next year and scored his first hundred, but it was in August 1923 that he first attracted much attention; in four consecutive matches he played innings of 111 not out, 128, 93 and 99. He remained one of the mainstays of the side until 1939. In all first-class cricket he made 28,575 runs with an averages of 34.95, scored 72 centuries, including at least one against every other county and both Universities, reached his 1,000 on sixteen occasions and in 1926, taking 93 wickets as well, narrowly missed the double. He bowled slow leg-breaks and off-breaks mixed and had the advantage of looking a good deal simpler than he was. At any rate in his career he took 557 wickets. A small man, very quick on his feet, he was a good driver on both sides of the wicket and a fine hooker, but he was more liable to spells of failure than a top-class batsman should be and had moreover an unconcealed distaste for fast bowling, nor was he outstanding in the field. He was a great player of slow spin, but the popular theory that he was Freeman's master is hardly born out by figures. Certainly when set he made Freeman look very ordinary, but in his 52 innings against Kent between 1922 and 1936, though he made seven centuries, his average was only 31 and on fifteen occasions Freeman had him out under 30.

After his retirement he was for many years coach at Eton and in 1946 and 1947 played for Buckinghamshire. Later he coached at Chigwell. He came of good cricket stock. His father had played with success for both Cambridgeshire and Derbyshire and bowled for many years in the nets at Fenner's. His uncle, Herbert Carpenter, was for years one of the mainstays of Essex batting and represented the Players, while his great uncle, Robert Carpenter, had been one of the leading batsmen in England in the 1860s. Wisden Cricketers' Almanack