



Vintage Croquet Set On Stand

F.H. Ayres

£1,100



REF: 30382

Height: 56 cm (22")

Width: 48 cm (18.9")

Depth: 20 cm (7.9")

Description

F.H. Ayres Croquet Set On Original Jaques Stand.

A fabulous garden croquet set with boxwood mallets, two with brass banding, two without. The mallets are stamped F.H. Ayres and come on an original John Jaques croquet stand. The stand stamped 'Rd 450433' with a brass plaque 'John Jaques & Son, Makers, London'. There is also a retailers plaque 'W.

Haydon, Ironmonger & Electrician, Bournemouth'. To complete the set there are four coloured balls in the standard croquet colours (stamped F.H. Ayres), six bent metal hoops and one winning post. The stand is made of fruit wood with a brass carry handle and brass supports with a brass 'Jaques' trade label, it is held together with nuts so the stand can be dismantled.

A wonderful set to grace anybody's lawn.

The size shown is for the stand, the mallets are approximately 97 cm in length.

Jaques is the oldest games company and sports manufacturer in the world. Passed down from father to son for six generations, Jaques have been responsible for inventing many well known games, such as Croquet, Ping Pong, Snakes and Ladders, Ludo, Tiddly Winks, The Staunton Chess Set, Happy Families, Snap and many more.

Thomas Jaques was born in 1765, a son of a French farmer. His recent forebears found refuge in England sometime after 1685 when the Edict of Nantes forbade Protestantism in France.

Thomas's instinct and good sense obviously extended into his private life: at twenty-one, Thomas married Mr Ivy's niece! Thomas continued to work for Mr Ivy. Nine years later, his employer, mentor (and uncle by marriage), died. Thomas, now thirty, was so well-versed in his craft that he could take on the business and establish himself as "Thomas Jaques, (Manufacturer of Ivory, Hardwoods, Bone, and Tunbridge Ware)". Thus, it is from this date, 1795, that John Jaques marks its official beginning.

At fifteen, John was apprenticed to his father and five years later partnered him in the firm, which became "T. and J. Jaques, Wholesale Ivory Turners". It was, by this time, too narrow a description, as their materials now, included hardwoods. Lignum Vitae was the unique wood which was to become Jaques croquet mallets. Turkey boxwood was destined for mallets and balls. In fact, before long Jaques would become timber-based, as they are now, 200 years on.

Their business card of 1816 shows an enterprising, expanding range of products and materials. Consider the item, "Dentists supplied with Sea Horse Teeth" - false teeth made from hippopotamus ivory! As the father and son partnership prospered, so the family grew. John married, and in time fathered a son: John Jaques II. He, too, was apprenticed as a young man to the family firm, which by now had expanded into additional premises in Hatton Garden. (Leather Lane was retained.) Tallis's London Street Views, a series of steel engravings issued in 1838, shows their new headquarters at Number 102 Hatton Garden.

Today, Ben, Emmett and Joe Jaques run the family business.

Adapted from the Jaques website.