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Rolex Perpetual Padellone. Ref. 8171

At Amsterdam Watch Company, we are thrilled to offer the Rolex Moonphase Padellone Ref. 8171, one of the rarest and most collectible vintage Rolex watches ever made. Known for its large size and sophisticated design, this iconic timepiece was produced from 1949 to 1952, marking an important chapter in Rolex's history. Revered by collectors worldwide, the Ref. 8171 represents a perfect combination of mechanical complexity and timeless elegance.

The nickname "Padellone" comes from the Italian word for "large frying pan," which perfectly captures the watch's substantial 38mm case size. At a time when wristwatches were typically much smaller, the Padellone's large, rounded case made it stand out. Despite its size, the watch is balanced and comfortable, wearing elegantly even by today's standards. Its bold proportions and distinctive look continue to make it a favorite among vintage watch collectors.

The Rolex Ref. 8171 is one of only two Rolex models ever produced with both a triple calendar (showing the day, month, and date) and a moonphase complication, the other being the Ref. 6062. These two watches are among the most complex Rolex models ever made, and their rarity makes them highly prized by collectors. The triple calendar function allows the wearer to see the full calendar at a glance, while the moonphase adds a touch of artistic and astronomical beauty to the

dial.

Powered by Rolex's in-house caliber A295 automatic movement, the Ref. 8171 is a marvel of mid-century watchmaking. The movement controls not only the time but also the day, month, date, and moonphase. This level of complexity was extremely advanced for the time, showing Rolex's commitment to innovation.

Condition and Features

This particular Rolex Padellone is in excellent condition, a rare find for a watch that is over 70 years old. The cream dial has developed a subtle, even patina, adding character without compromising readability. The dial, hands, moonphase, and calendar functions are all in their original, untouched condition, which is a key factor for collectors.

The watch features four pushers that control the calendar and moonphase functions, each working smoothly and accurately. The case is thick and sharp, with its original intact. Remarkably, the case number and Rolex logo are still clearly visible, a rare detail that is often worn down on vintage models of this age.

This piece also retains its original leather strap and the much-coveted 18k yellow gold buckle, both of which add significant value and desirability to the watch. Having all-original components in such excellent condition is incredibly rare and elevates this piece to another level of collectibility.

Why the Padellone is a Collector's Dream

For collectors, the Rolex Ref. 8171 is considered one of the most significant and rarest vintage Rolex watches. With fewer than 1,000 pieces ever produced, and even fewer surviving in this pristine condition, this watch is an absolute holy grail. The triple calendar and moonphase complications, combined with the large case size, make it a standout among vintage timepieces.

In recent years, the Padellone has become a highly sought-after watch at auctions, regularly achieving record prices. It appeals not only to Rolex enthusiasts but also to anyone passionate about vintage watchmaking due to its technical sophistication, timeless design, and historical importance.