



Renaissance Hunting Cranequin, Dated 1589 -- With Maker's Mark In Shield

7 000 EUR

Period : 16th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Wrought iron

Length : 30 cm



Description

Renaissance Hunting Cranequin, Dated 1589 --
With Maker's Mark in Shield

Origin: Southern Germany or Flanders

Date: 1589 (engraved)

Material: Forged iron, turned hardwood handle

Length: 30 cm without swinging arm

Markings: Deeply struck maker's mark featuring
a running animal (likely a fox) in a heraldic shield

Inventory tag: Old brass collection tag numbered
"447"

Description:

A rare and fully intact Renaissance-era cranequin (crémaillère), finely crafted for tensioning large hunting crossbows. This elegant mechanical windlass exemplifies the sophisticated engineering and artistry of late 16th-century

Dealer

Art Classique

curiosités, art premier et Asiatique

Tel : email : aze@pandora.be

Mobile : 0032-475272534

Bilzen 3740

Germanic or Flemish workshops.

The device features a central circular gear housing, driving a well-forged toothed rack terminating in finely sculpted double-hooked claws. A long crank arm with a gracefully forged shaft turns the gear, and is mounted with its original turned hardwood handle, decorated with delicate grooves and a ringed mid-band. The patina and age of the wood suggest it has remained untouched since the late 1500s.

Stamped on the housing is a maker's hallmark in the form of a heraldic shield, containing the image of a running animal, most likely a fox -- a symbol often associated with cunning, hunting, or used as a personal emblem by 16th-century craftsmen. The mark is deeply struck, original to the forging process, and not added later -- indicating this was the identifier of the original artisan or workshop.

At the claw end of the rack is a clear period-engraved date: "1589", further confirming the piece's authenticity and age. The style of the numerals, including decorative punched dots, corresponds to known workshop practices of the late Renaissance period.

Attached to the handle by wire is a small numbered brass tag ("447"), likely from a private or institutional collection. This detail suggests the piece was cataloged in a former museum or serious private arms collection, though the issuing source remains unverified.

Significance:

This cranequin is not of military origin but was almost certainly crafted for aristocratic or noble hunting purposes. The high-quality workmanship, refined aesthetic, and personalized mark all point to a custom-made tool for elite field use, rather than mass military production.

Cranequins of this type, especially dated and marked examples in untouched condition, are increasingly rare on the market and are highly sought after by collectors of antique arms, mechanical devices, and Renaissance hunting

gear.

Condition:

Mechanism complete and operational

Handle original, stable, with aged but sound wood

Metal with uniform patina; light pitting and surface marks consistent with age

No modern restoration or repair observed

Maker's mark and date clearly legible

Retains old brass inventory tag "447"

Comparable Examples:

Similar cranequins with heraldic hallmarks and original handles are preserved in:

The Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna

The Royal Armouries, Leeds

The Germanisches Nationalmuseum, Nuremberg