



Portugal. Cavalry Sword From The Reign Of Queen Dona Maria. Circa 1780



1 600 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Length : 116 cms

Description

Impressive 18th-century Portuguese cavalry sword, notable for its considerable length and the strong visual impact of its solid cup hilt. This is a historical weapon of striking presence, with a sober and functional aesthetic that clearly reflects its military character. The sword retains a homogeneous, dark and authentic patina formed over time, enhancing its originality and adding particular appeal for the demanding collector. The blade, long and straight, features a flat section with a slight central ridge and ends in a sharply pointed, functional tip. On both sides, linear commemorative and political engravings are preserved, including the inscription "Viva Doña María de Portugal". These engravings, executed in a simple yet clear manner, provide strong historical and identificative value. The surface

Dealer

IberAntiques

Antiques and Collectibles

Tel : +34 976 45 39 31

Mobile : +34 617 46 85 03

Calle Juan Cabrero, 18 Local AA

Zaragoza 50007

shows stable oxidation, even wear and marks consistent with age and use, without aggressive cleaning that would have altered its original character. The guard consists of a wide hemispherical metal cup designed to effectively protect the hand. The ensemble is completed by a curved knuckle guard and a straight crossguard ending in small spherical terminals, typical elements of 18th-century combat swords. The grip is covered with braided metal wire, still well preserved and displaying an attractive aged appearance. The oval pommel completes the composition with a simple and robust silhouette. The sword has not been restored or polished, fully preserving its historic patina. This decision safeguards its value as an authentic period piece, maintaining both its archaeological reading and original aesthetic intact. It is not accompanied by scabbard or accessories. Due to its typology, dimensions and historical context, this sword fits perfectly within a collection focused on 18th-century European arms or on Portuguese military history. A piece of significant interest due to its direct connection with the reign of Queen Maria I of Portugal. It stands out for its imposing length and the clarity of its historical inscriptions. Its untouched original condition makes it particularly desirable for rigorous collectors. Measurements: 116 cm (45.67 in). Blade: 97 cm (38.19 in).

History of the Portuguese Cavalry Sword

During the 18th century, Portugal developed various models of military swords adapted to the tactical needs of its cavalry. These weapons had to combine reach, resistance and effectiveness in mounted combat, explaining the considerable length of many blades. The adoption of cup hilts or closed variants responded to the need to protect the rider's hand during close combat engagements, especially against edged or thrusting weapons. The reign of Queen Maria I of Portugal (1777-1816) coincided with a period of military reorganization and gradual modernization of European armies. Within this context, Portuguese cavalry swords reflect both

Iberian influences and French or Central European models. Patriotic or monarchic inscriptions were not uncommon, as these weapons could also function as symbols of loyalty and political propaganda. Long and relatively straight blades allowed effective use both for thrusting and cutting from horseback. The robust construction of the guards and the use of wire-wrapped grips ensured a secure hold even under combat conditions. Today, such swords constitute important testimonies of Portuguese military history and are highly valued in the field of historical edged weapons collecting.