



Spain. Antique Spanish Ambassador's Sword. Signed Benito Martín. 1838



1 800 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Length : 96,5 cm (40 in)

Description

Important and rare Spanish diplomatic sword dated 1838, belonging to the ceremonial and representative sphere of the 19th-century diplomatic corps. Weapons of this type, intended for ambassadors and high state officials, symbolised institutional prestige and social rank, and were produced in specialised workshops to high artistic and technical standards. The hilt, executed in mercury-gilt bronze, displays rich chiselled decoration with heraldic iconography and neoclassical military motifs. The quality of casting and gilding reflects high-level craftsmanship characteristic of pieces intended for formal and representational contexts. The blade, of triangular section, retains acid-etched decoration with ornamental repertoire typical of Spanish Romantic-period production. Such

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slender and elegant blades were commonly used in diplomatic and court swords, prioritising symbolic presence over military functionality. The sword retains its original scabbard, also richly mounted and dated, bearing the inscription "Por Benito Martín", an element of significant historical interest that allows the piece to be linked to a specific commission or institutional context. The survival of this inscription adds exceptional value to the ensemble. Overall condition is very good, with even patina and wear consistent with age, maintaining notable material and aesthetic integrity. The coherence of the set and the quality of execution make this sword an especially attractive example within the field of 19th-century European ceremonial arms collecting. Spanish diplomatic swords of this period and function were often custom-made and are considerably rarer than standard military regulation swords, being particularly sought after when retaining original scabbards, identifiable inscriptions and well-preserved gilding. A piece of great historical elegance, strong visual presence and significant international collector interest. Measurements: 96.5 cm (40 in). Blade: 83.5 cm (32.9 in). History of Diplomatic Swords During the 19th century, ambassadors and high representatives of the Spanish state and other nations wore ceremonial swords as part of their official attire in protocol events, court receptions and diplomatic functions. These weapons symbolised state authority and the dignity of office, forming part of the visual language of European ceremonial tradition inherited from the Ancien Régime. Such pieces were produced to order in specialised workshops capable of combining artistic casting techniques, mercury gilding and ornamental blade etching. Today, 19th-century diplomatic swords represent a highly specialised collecting field, valued for their historical significance, refined aesthetics and rarity on the market.