



Spain. Antique Andalusian Baroque Knife. Malaga, 18th-19th Century



470 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Length : 27 cm (10,6 in)

Description

Exceptional and rare antique Spanish waist knife attributable to the Andalusian region and especially linked to the traditional cutlery production of Málaga, dating from the late 18th to the early 19th century. This piece represents an important historical and artistic example of popular civilian weaponry from southern Spain, reflecting the persistence of Baroque decorative language in traditional craftsmanship. The hilt displays a tapered structure formed by burin-engraved brass elements. The truncated-conical arrangement of its sections and the richness of its ornamentation correspond to characteristic formal solutions of traditional Andalusian knife-making, where the use of durable and noble materials provided both functionality and aesthetic presence. The blade, of

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

lanceolate profile and solid construction in carbon steel, features a false edge along the upper half of the spine, a configuration intended to enhance its defensive efficiency. It is especially distinguished by refined decoration through brass inlay with sinuous vegetal motifs, accompanied by burin-engraved undulating lines that demonstrate a high level of artisanal workmanship. The knife retains its original scabbard entirely made of brass, richly decorated with burin-engraved Baroque foliage motifs covering almost the entire surface, creating an ornamental horror vacui effect characteristic of Spanish Baroque decorative art. The designs, different on each side yet stylistically coherent, reinforce the artistic character of the ensemble. The decoration reflects an ornamental language inherited from Spanish Baroque art of the 17th-18th centuries, based on dynamic vegetal repertoires and dense compositions similar to those found in altarpieces, embroidery and luxury crafts of the period. This aesthetic continued to appear in traditional Spanish craftsmanship throughout the 19th century, particularly in rural and popular contexts. Overall condition is very good, with homogeneous wear consistent with age and full structural integrity. The quality of execution, ornamental richness and complete preservation of the scabbard place this example among the most attractive within specialised collecting of historical Spanish cutlery. A piece of strong historical personality, notable ethnographic interest and striking visual impact. Measurements: Overall length: 27 cm (10.6 in). Blade: 17 cm (6.7 in).

History of Andalusian Waist Knives

During the 18th and 19th centuries, the waist knife formed a common element of male dress in various regions of southern Spain, fulfilling both practical and symbolic functions. Associated with rural and popular urban contexts, as well as with characteristic figures of traditional Andalusian culture, this type of edged weapon became an object of social identity and artisanal expression. The persistence of Baroque decorative

repertoires in such pieces reflects the continuity of traditional artistic languages within popular production, where technical skill was combined with a deeply rooted aesthetic sensitivity. Today, Baroque Andalusian waist knives represent material testimonies of significant historical and ethnographic value, highly appreciated for their rarity, ornamental richness and connection to Andalusian popular culture.