



## France. Antique Child's Light Cavalry Sabre, An IX Model. 19th Century



325 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Etat d'usage

Length : 57 cm (22,44 in)

### Description

Interesting French child's sabre inspired by the regulation An IX light cavalry model, an uncommon piece that reflects the military culture and symbolic tradition of the 19th century. These types of sabres were not simple toys, but reduced reproductions intended for martial education, children's ceremonial uniforms, or social display within environments linked to the military world. The hilt is made of brass, with an elegant knuckle guard faithfully following the aesthetic of the original light cavalry model. The grip is made of wood with wrapped metal wire, preserving its structural configuration and showing wear consistent with the age of the piece. One of the guard branches is missing, a visible defect that does not compromise the overall stability, but forms part of its true state of

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preservation. The blade has the characteristic curve and a rounded, unsharpened tip, a usual detail in child or training versions. Its surface shows an even patina and areas of superficial oxidation consistent with the passage of time, adding historical authenticity to the whole. These sabres reproduced with remarkable fidelity the proportions and typology of regulation weapons, which clearly distinguishes them from ordinary period toys. The original scabbard is made of steel and fitted with two brass mounts, maintaining visual coherence with the hilt. It shows general wear and visible oxidation, logical signs of age that do not prevent its proper function. The whole preserves its structural integrity and historical identity as an object linked to military tradition. These pieces formed part of the symbolic or ceremonial education of young people belonging to military families or social classes connected to the army. More than toys, they were objects of representation that conveyed values associated with honour, discipline, and generational continuity within European military culture. It is an especially interesting piece because it belongs to a less common typology within Napoleonic militaria collecting. Its preservation with the original scabbard increases its documentary and historical value. In addition, its symbolic child character gives it a singular cultural appeal that is difficult to find on the current market. Measurements: 57 cm (22.44 in). Blade: 47 cm (18.5 in).

### History of the Child's An IX Model Sabre

The An IX model sabre was adopted by the French light cavalry during the Napoleonic period as part of the military reforms that followed the Revolution. Its robust and functional design made it one of the most characteristic models of French weaponry in the 19th century. Throughout that century, reduced versions inspired by regulation models appeared, intended for the symbolic education of young people connected to military or aristocratic environments. These pieces were not toys in the modern sense, but objects of learning,

representation, or ceremony that faithfully reproduced real weapons on a smaller scale. The tradition of dressing children in military-style elements was common in certain European social contexts, especially in France, where the army was a cultural reference of prestige and historical continuity. These child's sabres reflect that symbolic and educational dimension of the military world. Today they are valued pieces within specialised collecting because of their relative rarity and their ability to illustrate lesser-known aspects of 19th-century military culture.