



France. Antique Private Purchase Infantry Officer's Sword Or Sabre. Late 19th C Descripción Ing



390 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Length : 95,5 cm (37,60 in)

Description

Antique French private purchase sabre for an infantry officer from the late 19th century, a piece that reflects the aesthetic refinement and military tradition of officers' edged weapons of the period. These sabres were not strictly regulation weapons, but privately acquired arms used by French officers, inspired by official models and intended both for service and for ceremonial wear, full dress, or social representation. The hilt is made of bronze or brass, with three chiselled and pierced branches decorated with floral motifs executed in a detailed and harmonious manner. This type of ornamentation is characteristic of private purchase officer's sabres, in which the officer could select more elaborate designs than those found on regulation models. The horn grip retains its structure and original wire binding,

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with no visible losses. The blade is straight, double edged, with fullers running along its length. It is signed at the base "Couleaux Klingenthal", a French manufactory of recognised prestige in the production of military edged weapons and military style civilian arms. The surface shows a light patina and small marks consistent with age, while maintaining a good overall appearance. The original scabbard is made of steel with one suspension ring. It shows visible oxidation and general wear consistent with its age, without affecting its structural function or the historical coherence of the whole. Private purchase officer's sabres formed part of an officer's personal equipment and could be acquired freely from specialised makers. They were not toys or modern decorative weapons, but real and functional pieces adapted to personal taste, combining practical use with social representation within the military world. This context explains the ornamental richness and the presence of commercial signatures on this type of weapon. This is an especially interesting piece because of its non regulation character within the French military tradition. Its prestigious maker's signature adds historical and documentary value. In addition, its ornamental design and preservation with the original scabbard make it an excellent addition to a specialised collection. Measurements: 95.5 cm (37.60 in). Blade: 80.5 cm (31.69 in). History of French Private Purchase Officer's Sabres During the 19th century, French officers enjoyed a certain degree of freedom in the choice of their edged weapons, which encouraged the appearance of privately purchased sabres alongside regulation models. Although inspired by official patterns, these weapons often displayed variations in design, ornamentation, and finish, reflecting the personal taste of the owner and the influence of contemporary military fashion. Private manufactories played an essential role in this production, offering high quality weapons both for practical use and for representation. Firms

such as Couleaux in Klingenthal produced numerous sabres intended for officers, combining technical tradition with a more elaborate aesthetic than that of strictly regulation models. The sabre remained a fundamental symbol of rank and military authority, even when its direct combat role declined in favour of firearms. For this reason, private purchase models became especially important as elements of uniform, ceremony, and social presence within the military sphere. Today, these sabres are appreciated both for their historical value and for their artistic quality, representing a significant facet of late 19th century European military culture.