



Usa. Antique Naval Dirk For An Officer Of The Us Navy. Circa 1800-1815



1 900 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Length : 36,5 cm (14,37 in)

Description

Antique, very rare and interesting officer's dirk of the United States Navy, made circa 1800 to 1815, a piece of notable historical interest because of its early chronology, elegant design, and clear connection with Anglo American naval arms of the early 19th century. It is a model closely inspired by certain dirks of the English Royal Navy, here reinterpreted for American use within the maritime and military context of the young American nation. The hilt is clearly of oriental or Mameluke style, and is made of horn, an aesthetic highly characteristic of the military taste of the period. The guard is made of gilt brass and features in its centre a relief American eagle, an element of great iconographic importance that clearly reinforces its destination for the United States Navy. The guard chain is now missing,

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

although this does not detract from the identity or general interest of the piece. The blade is strongly curved and retains remains of blueing and gilt decoration engraved with scrolls and military trophies, an ornamental repertoire typical of officer's arms of a certain quality. This type of decoration, together with the refinement of the whole, confirms that we are dealing with a quality piece, intended both for wear with uniform and to express rank, prestige, and membership of the naval sphere. The original scabbard, made of brass, is richly decorated with embossed floral motifs and a cartouche with an eagle. Its ornamental richness and quality of execution reinforce the distinguished character of the whole. The piece shows wear and normal signs of age, consistent with its use and with more than two centuries of history, but it retains very good presence and remarkable visual strength. These types of dirks for the US Navy from the early 19th century are considerably scarcer than their English equivalents, which clearly increases their appeal within specialised naval militaria collecting. Its early chronology, American iconography, and typological relationship with British naval models make it an especially desirable piece, both for its rarity and for its historical and documentary value. It is, in short, a very unusual American naval dirk, highly representative of the period 1800 to 1815 and of officers' arms during the early years of the consolidation of the United States Navy. Measurements: 36.5 cm (14.37 in). Blade: 24.5 cm (9.64 in). History of Early US Navy Dirks In the early years of the United States Navy, officers' edged weapons showed a strong British influence, something entirely logical when both the inherited naval tradition and the chronological proximity to Royal Navy models are taken into account. During this period, naval daggers or officers' dirks were prestige pieces, worn as part of the uniform and linked to the identity of the officer corps. At the beginning of the 19th century, examples intended for the US Navy

appeared which, although inspired by English models, incorporated their own features and clearly American iconography, especially the national eagle. These pieces usually display careful workmanship, with hilts made of noble materials, decorated blades, and richly worked scabbards, which distinguish them from more ordinary arms or later mass produced examples. The War of 1812 helped to consolidate the naval identity of the United States, and this type of dirk fits perfectly within that historical environment, in which the American Navy sought to assert itself against Great Britain while still reflecting a clear formal British heritage. Today, early US Navy dirks are very difficult pieces to find, especially in comparison with their English equivalents, which are more abundant on the market. For this reason, they are objects of great interest for collectors of naval militaria, historic American arms, and pieces linked to the founding period of the United States.