



France. Antique Chassepot Model 1866 Sword Bayonet. St étienne, June 1868



270 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Length : 70 cm (27.56 in)

Description

Antique French sword bayonet corresponding to the Chassepot Model 1866, manufactured at the Imperial Manufactory of Saint Étienne and dated June 1868. It is a regulation piece from the French Second Empire, associated with the Chassepot rifle, one of the most important weapon systems of the second half of the 19th century. The yataghan profile blade, characteristic of this model, gives the piece a recognisable silhouette within European arms of the period. The hilt is made of solid brass with longitudinal grooves that improve grip. It retains the original fastening system with a functional spring visible on the back, typical of the regulation design. The guard and muzzle ring show an even patina and light surface oxidation consistent with the age of the piece. These signs

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of time do not affect its structural stability and may be cleaned if desired, although many collectors prefer to preserve this original patina as a guarantee of authenticity. The steel blade has the characteristic curved yataghan profile, with a central fuller running lengthwise. The surface shows even oxidation and signs of use consistent with service, with no evidence of aggressive modern intervention. On the spine, the regulation manufacturing inscription of the Imperial Manufactory of Saint Étienne with the date of June 1868 is preserved, a particularly relevant detail for the correct historical dating of the piece. The piece is accompanied by its original metal scabbard, as well as a leather frog allowing it to be suspended. The frog remains in very good overall condition, with supple leather and firm stitching, constituting a rather uncommon complement when preserved together with the weapon. This element adds collector's interest to the set by maintaining the full functionality of the original regulation equipment. This is a representative piece of French weaponry from the period of the Second Empire and the years preceding the Franco Prussian War. Because of its precise dating, complete preservation and the presence of the original leather frog, it is particularly suitable for a 19th century militaria collection or for studies of European regulation weaponry. Measurements: Total length: 70 cm (27.56 in). Blade length: 57.5 cm (22.64 in). History of the Chassepot Model 1866 sword bayonet The Model 1866 sword bayonet was developed in France as a complement to the Chassepot rifle, officially adopted by the French army in 1866 during the Second Empire of Napoleon III. This system represented a significant advance in European military armament, introducing a breech loading rifle with a paper cartridge that greatly improved the rate of fire compared with earlier models. The bayonet associated with this rifle adopted the characteristic yataghan blade form, inspired by eastern models and already used in earlier French

bayonets. This shape allowed good structural rigidity without excessively increasing the weight of the whole. Production was distributed among several imperial manufactories, with Saint Étienne standing out as one of the main centres of arms production in 19th century France. The Model 1866 was widely used during the Franco Prussian War of 1870 to 1871, a conflict that marked the end of the Second Empire. After this period, many of these bayonets remained in service or were stored in military arsenals. Today, dated examples with legible markings are especially appreciated by collectors because of their direct connection with one of the key moments in European military history.