



France. Antique Light Cavalry Sword Model 1882. February 1883



590 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Length : 103,5 cm (40,75 in)

Description

Authentic antique French regulation light cavalry sword model 1882, manufactured at the Manufacture d'Armes de Châtellerault and precisely dated February 1883. This is a complete example retaining its original scabbard with matching serial numbers, a feature particularly valued among historical militaria collectors. The hilt features the characteristic three-branch brass guard, robust and functional, clearly stamped with the serial number 13698. The grip has a wooden core covered in dark leather and retains its original twisted wire binding, ensuring a firm and secure hold. The brass pommel maintains its original form and shows natural wear consistent with genuine military use. The blade is straight, with T-section, fullered faces and longitudinal hollowing, a technical feature designed to reduce

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weight without compromising structural strength. It shows consistent preservation with normal service and age-related marks. On the spine, the full regulation inscription is clearly visible, indicating the Manufacture d'Armes de Châtellerault, the date February 1883 and the designation "Cavalerie Légère Modèle 1882", allowing precise identification of its origin and chronology. The scabbard is made of iron and retains its original suspension ring. It bears the same serial number as the sword, confirming the original pairing of the set, an aspect especially sought after by collectors. This is a highly representative collectible piece of 19th-century French military armament, ideal for a themed European militaria collection.

Measurements:
Overall length 103.5 cm (40.75 in). Blade 86.5 cm.

History of the Model 1882 Light Cavalry Sword
The Model 1882 sword was adopted by the French army during a period of military reorganization following the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-1871. Its straight blade design reflected new tactical doctrines favoring thrusting techniques in mounted combat, marking an important development in cavalry weaponry during the Third Republic. Manufactured at the Manufacture d'Armes de Châtellerault, one of the principal state armament facilities, this type of sword was issued to light cavalry units serving both in mainland France and in colonial territories. During the late 19th century, weapons of this model accompanied French regiments in campaigns in North Africa, particularly in Algeria and Tunisia, as well as in military operations in Indochina. By the end of the 19th century and into the early 20th century, Model 1882 swords continued as standard equipment for mounted units, present in conflicts such as the Madagascar expedition of 1895 and military operations in Morocco in the early 20th century. Although modern firearms gradually reduced their battlefield role, the sword remained a symbol of military status and cavalry tradition. Today, surviving examples stand as tangible evidence of

the transition between traditional 19th-century warfare and modern industrialized conflict.