



France. Antique Regulation Sword Of The Paris Municipal Guard. Model 1872



275 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Etat d'usage

Length : 85 cm (33,5 in)

Description

Antique French regulation sword, model 1872, used by the Paris Municipal Guard, conceived as a service weapon for real functions of defence and urban intervention. It is an operational model, of moderate dimensions and functional construction, intended for everyday wear by uniformed agents responsible for maintaining public order in the French capital during the second half of the nineteenth century. The hilt is made of brass, with a single branch guard that protects the hand without hindering mobility in rapid actions. The globular pommel provides good balance to the weapon, while the dark wooden grip has longitudinal fluting intended to improve grip during use. The oval shell guard bears in relief the coat of arms of the city of Paris, with the ship and the motto "Fluctuat nec

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mergitur", the heraldic emblem of the city of Paris. The blade is straight, of steel, with a double longitudinal fuller that reduces weight without compromising structural rigidity. Its configuration responds to practical criteria of strength and efficiency in actions of restraint or close combat, characteristics typical of the militarised police weapons of the period. The point is sharp and retains the functional geometry typical of nineteenth century urban service swords. The condition is consistent with a used piece. The blade shows oxidation, stains, and general wear that testify to its age and historical use. The hilt shows surface ageing, with partial loss of uniformity in the brass finish and visible rubbing in different areas. It does not retain the scabbard. Despite this, the sword keeps its complete structure and allows a clear identification of its typology and original function. A clearly identifiable regulation model within nineteenth century French police weaponry. It preserves original construction features despite the wear resulting from active service. A very interesting piece for collectors focused on urban militaria or historical armed corps. Measurements: Total length: 85 cm (33.5 in). Blade length: 71 cm (28 in). History of the Paris Municipal Guard The Paris Municipal Guard was created in 1802 by decree of 12 Vendémiaire, Year XI, 4 October, with the aim of ensuring public order in the French capital. According to the official historiography of the present-day Garde républicaine, the corps was initially organised with about 180 horsemen and approximately 2,250 infantrymen, becoming from its origin an armed force of military nature, intended primarily for urban police functions. Unlike line army units, its main mission was not field warfare, but the maintenance of order, the surveillance of streets and public buildings, escort duties, and the representation of state authority in Paris. Specialised bibliography describes it as the heir to the old urban watch, adapted to the needs of a modern capital. During

the nineteenth century the corps underwent various reorganisations and changes of name according to the different French political regimes. The institutional line leading to the present-day Garde républicaine includes stages such as the Garde municipale de Paris, the Gendarmerie royale de Paris, and other intermediate structures. French archives place the Garde républicaine de Paris between 1871 and 1946, which makes it possible to place regulation weapons such as the model 1872 sword within this system of militarised urban forces. Although its main role was police service, the Municipal Guard could act as an organised and armed troop. In certain periods, especially during the Napoleonic era, some units even took part in operations outside the capital. This hybrid nature, between military force and public order service, defines its historical role and explains the functional nature of the regulation weapons it used.