PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

La Fayette Officer's Sword - Louis XVI

3 850 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Très bon état

Description

The type of sword worn during the era of La Fayette and the American ExpeditionCirca 1775-1785DescriptionFollowing the silver sword from the American Expedition, here is a more understated but equally iconic example of the weapons carried by Royal Navy officers under Louis XVI.This sword belongs specifically to the generation of weapons carried by French officers who fought alongside La Fayette during the American War of Independence. It closely resembles the models preserved at the Army Museum in the section dedicated to the American Expedition (1777-1783).It features a gilded brass hilt characteristic of the Royal Navy. The segmented dome-shaped pommel is finely chased with a scale pattern, a motif emblematic of naval hilts from this period. The joint arch and the

Dealer

Collection
Rare & Unusual Objects
Mobile : 0032475266745

Mons 7000

guard are accented by an elegant row of five pearls, a typical Louis XVI decoration that should not be confused with the "five balls" found on Consulate-era mountings.The fluted ebony tang is adorned at its center with a gilded oval ring decorated with scales. The straight, hollow-ground blade is blued and gilded in its upper third, embellished with trophies of arms, a radiant sun, and foliage motifs. It bears the signature on the back: "Pierre Guillaume Knecht, Manufacturer in Solingen," one of the most renowned manufacturers of his time. The leather strap is preserved.The scabbard, of a particularly rare type, consists of a steel sheet core covered with blackened leather, featuring a gilded brass chape and pommel; it is preserved with the sword.Historical ContextWhen the Marquis de La Fayette set sail in 1777 to join the American rebels, many officers of the French Royal Navy carried this type of sword. After France's official entry into the war in 1778, these swords were carried by officers in the squadrons commanded by d'Estaing, de Guichen, de Grasse, and de Suffren, whose actions would prove decisive in the American victory.This particular example is an integral part of that history and closely matches the reference models preserved at the Army Museum.DateFrance, circa 1775-1785. Reign of Louis XVI.Historical SignificanceMore than just a ceremonial weapon, this sword bears witness to a major period in French and American history. Its excellent condition, its blued and gilded signed blade, its elegant mount, and its rare, complete scabbard make it a particularly sought-after specimen. It directly evokes the officers who crossed the Atlantic alongside La Fayette during the American Expedition.