



Spanish Left-handed Dagger With A Sail-shaped Hilt, Featuring A Coat Of Arms.

980 EUR

Period : 17th century

Condition : Très bon état

Length : 52.3 cm

Width : aux quillons 27.6 cm



Description

This left-handed dagger is known as a "sail dagger" because of the triangular guard that protects the hand, which resembles the sail of a ship. The style is unmistakably 17th-century Spanish, and following a thorough analysis, it likely dates from the last quarter of the 17th century. **BLADE:** Following a ricasso on the inner side of which there is a recess designed to support the thumb, there are two holes known as "point breakers" (rompe puntas). The blade then features, on one side, a long cutting edge that extends to the point, and on the other, a thick back, decorated with intricate scalloped guilloché, designed to prevent an opponent's blade from slipping. The back then takes the form of a second cutting edge that extends to the tip. Blade length = 39.4 cm, width at the ricasso

Dealer

Sud.Arsenal

Armes et armures anciennes

Mobile : 0607300666

Trouvedeniers

Pradinas 12240

4.5 cm, thickness at the ricasso 4.3 mm

GUARD: It consists on one hand, a central section or

"cross" with an octagonal cross-section

terminating in two acorn-shaped, faceted quillons.

And on the other hand, the guard itself, which is

riveted to the quillons of the cross guard, using

17th-century techniques. The edges of this guard

are twisted into a cord known as a "brise pointes"

and wound around a steel rod, following a

classical technique of the period. The central

motif of this veil is a prominent coat of arms,

"gules with a cross of argent," which

immediately evokes the coat of arms of Savoy,

and which, after research, corresponds here to

the coat of arms of the very ancient

house Aspremont. The background of the veil

outside the shield is decorated with a very fine

dotted pattern, which in heraldry would represent

gold. This coat of arms on a dagger with a Spanish

sail would historically correspond to the arms of

Marie-Louise, Countess of Aspremont, wife of

Heinrich-Franz von Mansfeld, Prince of Fondi,

who from 1683 to 1690 served as ambassador of

the Imperial Court of Vienna to the Spanish court.

In 1690, this diplomat was invited to a wedding

in Valladolid, on the occasion of which he was

bestowed numerous gifts and honors. It was

therefore likely on this occasion that this dagger

was crafted, evoking the coat of arms of his wife,

who herself came from a very ancient line of

nobility. The purely honorary purpose of the

weapon explains the thinness of the guard, whose

defensive role was no longer the primary

concern.

POMMEL: It is shaped like a flattened

bulb, chiseled with plant motifs and topped by a

small, flattened knob to which the blade tang is

riveted.

GRIP: It is covered with intricate wire

binding, indicative of meticulous craftsmanship.

The braided crown-shaped ferrules, known as

"Turk's heads," are present and in perfect

condition. In conclusion, this is a beautiful dagger.

My interpretation based on the coat of arms

cannot, of course, be guaranteed 100%, but

everything seems to fit, however...I acquired this

dagger in Alsace, in the Vosges region, which is further evidence, since Marie Louise d'Aspremont's two daughters had connections to this region: Marie-Anne de Mansfeld married, in 1699, the Count Guillaume Florentin of the House of Salm, in the Vosges. The other daughter married her cousin Charles-François de Mansfeld, which brings us back to the same geographical area, on one side or the other of the Rhine. In any case, I can only guarantee with certainty that this dagger is antique, probably from the late 17th century, based on the evidence cited. In the worst-case scenario, it may be an unlikely 19th-century fabrication. I therefore guarantee that this dagger is, at a minimum, from the 19th century, with a good chance that it dates from the very last years of the 17th century. The asking price takes this possibility into account. Ref DX-2454 Shipping costs: France EUR30, Europe EUR40