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Trench Letter Opener, Hungarian Prisoner Of War, Krasnoyarsk, Siberia, 1916, World War I



500 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Très bon état

Length : 35,5 cm

Description

An exceptional World War I wooden letter opener, hand-carved in 1916 by a Hungarian prisoner of war held at the Russian Imperial POW camp in Krasnoyarsk, Siberia. The blade bears the meticulously chip-carved Hungarian-language inscription KRASNOJARSK-SZIBÉRIA 1916. The Hungarian spelling Szibéria directly identifies the carver's nationality, making this a poignant piece of Hungarian national heritage rather than a generic trench art item. The flared handle features two full-length depictions of an infantryman in standard field uniform with field cap, greatcoat and rifle, one on each face. The background is finished with fine punched stippling, and the terminal is shaped as an oak acorn, a traditional symbol of bravery. The wood is a pale hardwood, most likely birch or

Dealer

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lime.Length 35.5 cm; maximum width 4.3 cm;
weight 26 g. Technique: hand-carved relief and
chip carving with punched stippling. In excellent
antique condition: no structural cracks, splits or
restorations; the carving remains exceptionally
crisp, with minor surface and handling wear
consistent with age. While brass trench art is
common, wooden POW carvings of this
sculptural quality and documented Hungarian
provenance are very rare survivals, with
comparable examples held in museum
collections. Please carefully regard all photos as
they make an integral part of the listing, and
reach out if there are any questions.