



Rare 19th-century European-afghan Hybrid Dagger, With A Blued And Gilded Officer's Blade, Mount

1 300 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état



Description

An exceptionally unusual and historically fascinating
19th-century European-Afghan hybrid weapon, combining a prestigious European blue and gilt officer's blade with a later Afghan-Pashtun remounting in the form of a pesh-kabz or Khyber knife. This remarkable object preserves evidence of two distinct military traditions and offers a tangible record of cultural contact, conflict and adaptation.

The blade originated as part of a high-status European officer's, court or dress weapon. Its surface retains extensive gilt etching over a darkened ground, originally blued or

Dealer

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blackened, featuring military trophies, standards, polearms, a cuirass, a plumed hat, hunting motifs, aristocratic ornament and a central heart medallion. Such decorative programmes were characteristic of elite European arms of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, where a blade functioned not only as a weapon but also as a symbol of rank, prestige and personal identity.

At a later stage, the blade entered the Afghan-Pashtun armoury tradition and was substantially reworked. The point was shortened while preserving the most important decorative section near the base, creating a weapon closely related to the pesh-kabz and Khyber knife forms. The thick reinforced spine and rigid blade geometry were specifically suited to powerful thrusting attacks capable of penetrating heavy clothing, mail and defensive equipment.

The original European hilt was removed and replaced with a practical eastern hilt fashioned from dark buffalo horn, fitted with brass collar and pommel. The through-tang construction confirms that this was intended as a genuine fighting weapon rather than a decorative curiosity or tourist object.

Perhaps the most intriguing aspect of the piece is the deliberate preservation of the European decoration. The Afghan craftsman could easily have removed the earlier symbolism, overlaid it with local engraving or added Islamic inscriptions and ownership marks. Instead, the military trophies, hunting motifs, heart medallion and aristocratic

imagery were retained. This strongly suggests that the blade was valued not merely as a source of good steel, but as a respected trophy taken from a worthy and high-status opponent. Within Pashtun martial culture, honouring a brave adversary and preserving a significant trophy carried genuine symbolic importance.

Two principal historical interpretations remain possible.

The first points towards German or Central European origins, as the decorative vocabulary closely resembles court, hunting and dress weapons from that region.

The second, and arguably the more compelling historical route, is British.

British officers fought extensively against Afghan and Pashtun forces throughout the 19th century during the Anglo-Afghan Wars and on the North-West Frontier. A captured officer's blade could readily have entered local ownership and subsequently been remounted in the Afghan fighting tradition.

This weapon is especially significant because its history remains visibly layered rather than erased. It preserves traces of both the original European owner and the later Afghan-Pashtun warrior who transformed it for continued use. If future research were to identify the original workshop, blade type or owner, particularly in connection with a documented military context, the historical importance and collector interest would increase considerably.

Measurements

Overall length: 59.5 cm / 23.4''

Blade length: 47.3 cm / 18.6''

Blade width at base: 2.6 cm / 1.0''

Spine thickness at base: approximately 8.1 mm

Weight: 276 g

Condition

An exceptionally rare historical weapon retaining a strong

and authentic surface. The blade shows

darkening, corrosion, pitting, surface

wear, partial loss of the original bluing or

blackening and areas of wear to

the gilt etched decoration, all consistent with age

and prolonged use.

Importantly, the principal decorative programme

remains clearly legible. The

buffalo horn hilt displays an attractive age patina

together with natural

shrinkage and a small crack. The brass mounts

show oxidation, scratches and age-related

wear. The piece has not been over-cleaned and

retains a highly desirable

historic appearance.

Shipping & Packaging

Fully tracked and insured delivery where legally permitted.

Shipping cost includes professional packaging, careful

handling and secure postage.

Carefully packed using recycled materials where possible.

Please note: This antique weapon is offered

strictly as a

historical collector's object. Sale and shipment are

subject to all applicable

age, legal and import restrictions.