Pepperbox Pistol With 3 Rotating Barrels And Percussion Mechanism, Circa 1860 - French Colony - P



380 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Wrought iron

Length : 24,5 cm

Description

Three-barrel rotating percussion pepperbox pistol, circa 1860 - French colony - Ref. PRN25PIS004Rare and unusual three-barrel hand-rotated percussion pepperbox of artisanal North African manufacture (most likely Algeria), dating from the French colonial period, circa 1840-1860.During the French conquest and presence in North Africa, local gunsmiths and mixed European-indigenous workshops produced or adapted multi-barrel handguns inspired by European percussion pepperboxes. These artisanal pieces typically feature manual barrel rotation, absence of industrial proof marks, and decoration drawing on Maghrebi ornamental traditions (metal filigree and mother-of-pearl or ivory inlays). Such weapons were used for personal defence or as prestige items by officers,

Dealer

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settlers and local elites.Measurements:Overall length: approx. 24.5 cmBarrel length (including chamber): approx. 12 cmInternal barrel diameter: approx. 7 mmThe three barrels are rotated by hand for successive shots. The hammer is fully functional and the pistol uses specific percussion caps. The nipples are currently obstructed; the weapon is therefore sold as-is, as an unfinished piece requiring completion/restoration by a knowledgeable collector or specialised gunsmith.The exotic dark-wood grips are undamaged and decorated with brass/silver filigree in a fleur-de-lis pattern, with mother-of-pearl inserts. A distinctive silver floral motif is set into the upper metal section of the grip. The metals are in good overall condition with an attractive original patina. A few brass inlays may sit slightly proud of their housings but are easily repositioned; all elements are present. A lanyard ring is fitted, suggesting possible cavalry or military use.The action is unusual: a release lever on the left side of the frame is pulled rearward while the pistol is at half-cock, allowing the barrels to be rotated manually until they lock into battery with a click. The centrally mounted hammer has a safety position and delivers a strong, clean strike when fully cocked and released.No proof marks or maker's marks are visible. Category D historical firearm (pre-1900 system) - free sale and possession for adults.An intriguing and atypical piece at the crossroads of a defensive weapon and a curiosity, of interest to collectors of multi-barrel arms, pepperboxes, colonial weapons and 19th-century travel pistols. Offers good restoration potential.No ammunition, powder or caps are supplied (the caps required are of a specific type).Fast, well-protected worldwide shipping available.