









MORION

for a high-ranking commander.

Italy, last quarter of 16th century.

Height: 33 cm.

Length: 36 cm.

“The skull wrought in one piece with high comb, the brim with roped edge, original plume holder, the surface decorated overall with blued strapwork, enclosing panels etched and gilt with trophies of arms, the central medaillons on each side with classical warriors.”ⁱ

Condition

Rusted in parts, the comb perforated.

Comparative Pieces

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Acc. No. 04.3.220.

Museo Nazionale del Palazzo di Venezia (Collezione Odescalchi),
Rom.ⁱⁱ

Philadelphia Museum of Art, Acc. No. 1977-167-127.

Wallace Collection, London, Inv. No. A127.

Background

The morion helmet developed from the 15th century war hat, in particular the Spanish type that was called cabacete. As a very popular

helmet the morion came into use all over Europe and was found on the battle fields until the first half of the 17th century. Especially among the infantrymen like those wearing the pike, the monarch's personal guards and town or city defenders it formed an integral part of their equipment.

Provenance

I. The Hever Castle Collection, circa 1903 – 1983.

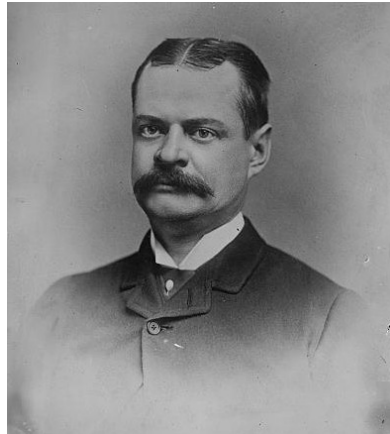


Fig. 1 William Waldorf Astor, 1848 – 1919.

“William Waldorf Astor of Hever assembled one of the most important collections of European arms and armour in the 20th century. Elements from three well-known 19th century collections have been recognised: the Hefner-Alteneck, much of which was obtained in the middle decades of the 19th century, the Brett Collection and the Magniac Collection. Of these, the Brett, which is probably the largest private collection ever assembled in this country, was the most important

source, but owing to the poor quality of the illustrations in the 19th century catalogue it is not possible to recognise many of the pieces, especially the armours, with any certainty. Records survive of the names of the dealers who supplied the major items; the leading arms and armour dealer at the time was M. Bachereau of Paris. This name appears in relation to some of the major purchases for the Hever Castle collection and is, of course, well known in late 19th and early 20th century auction records. The most frequently listed name is F. Robert, also French, but otherwise unknown in the annals of English armour collecting. That of Robert Partridge of St. Jame's, a leading London dealer in furniture and works of art also figures largely."ⁱⁱⁱ

ⁱ Sotheby Parke Bernet & Co (1983): *The Hever Castle Collection*, p. 34.

ⁱⁱ Barberini, M. G. (2002): *Belle e terribili. La collezione Odescalchi*, p. 67.

ⁱⁱⁱ Sotheby Parke Bernet & Co (1983): *The Hever Castle Collection*, p. 4.



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INSTITUTIONAL CLIENTS

In the last years, we have welcomed several museums of international significance among the circle of our valued clients. We are grateful for the confidence these institutions have placed in our services.

2019

The *European Hansemuseum* in Lübeck loaned our 15th century breech-loading swivel gun for their special exhibition *Störtebeker and Company*.

2017

Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna from Malta purchases a group of rare antiquarian books on artillery and fortification, dating from the 17th to 19th centuries.

2016

The *Bayerisches Nationalmuseum* in Munich enhances its collection with an important hunting hanger.

2015

Schloss Moritzburg near Dresden acquires from us a partizan of the lifeguard of Elector Friedrich August I., Saxony 1694 – 1697.

2015

We sold the drawing of an unknown bronze barrel by Albert Benningk to the *Deutsches Historisches Museum* in Berlin.

2013

The *Cleveland Museum of Art* secures a savoyard helmet, dating from the early 17th century. We were able to trace back its provenance to the collection of Rutherford Stuyvesant.

