



## **A Model Mortar, Germany, 17th Century**

Bronze, wood, iron bands and nails. Untouched condition.

Length: 25,8 cm.

Maximum width: 10,5 cm.

Height: circa 13,5 cm, when barrel kept in an angle of 45 degree.

Bronze barrel with dolphin shaped handles and decorative fillets, on its original wooden bed, the latter with several forged iron bands attached to the sides with numerous nails in order to provide the necessary stability of the construction. Also on the edges such a band is running around the silhouette and neatly fits the curved shape of the wood. On the upper side an iron latch firmly attaches each trunnion of the barrel to the rack. They were originally fastened by four locking bolts inserted into wholes of gudgeons, each mounted on the bed and tucking through the bar. Comparable to life-size mortars of that age chains secured these bolts, so they would not get lost. In order to hold the mortar in position, there are four rings on the side, fixed by loops on the iron belts.

### **Condition**

Side one, chains:

1. Complete, the bolt missing.
2. Still showing the latch, shortened a little bit.
3. Lose on the lower end.
4. Complete, bolt missing.

Other: One ring is missing.

On the opposite side, chains:

1. Some links are missing.
4. Missing.

The present model mortar is very neatly made, showing all the details of a 17<sup>th</sup> century life-size weapon. It is particularly well preserved and in untouched condition. The bronze barrel and the iron bands show an attractive patina, as does the surface of the painted wood. Besides the rarity of 17<sup>th</sup> century model cannons preserved with original carriages it is this state of preservation

which is both very appealing and particularly hard to find. Therefore, we decided to leave this object as it is, without restorations.

### **Background**

Miniature cannons conduced a variety of functions. Gun founders constructed such models in order to advertise their abilities to prospective clients. Other examples owned by young princes were used to fight mock battles as part of their education for becoming future military leaders. Finally, a third group of cannons served to deliver salutes, both among military circles and for entertaining purposes.









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