



## **Model Cannon, Germany, late 17th Century.**

Length overall: 81 cm.

Length bronze barrel: 52,5 cm.

Width: 34 cm.

Miniature cannons served a variety of functions. Some were constructed by gun founders 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. Due to its elaborate design it can be assumed that our example was ordered to be fired for the amusement of the nobility.

The construction of the present piece resembles that of a 17th century cannon in all details. At the wooden field carriage you can observe laborious iron bounds, used in such a density on the most expensive cannons. Two bars firmly attached to the carriage by cotters do hold the bronze barrel, which shows several reinforcing rings, dolphin handles, two leaf ornaments and a cartouche with chiselled background.

### **Condition**

It is a stroke of luck that our cannon is preserved in such an untouched condition. While other examples do often suffer from improper old restorations this model cannon features a historical surface corresponding to its age. Iron bounds, the bronze barrel and also the wooden parts are characterised by their wonderful patina. You can find traces of an intensive usage at the barrel and carriage. All parts are original. There are no alterations or restorations.

### **Comparative pieces**

An original model cannon in such a state of preservation and in connection with a laborious craftsmanship like the present example is truly unique in the present - day art market. There are some comparable pieces in important museums collections accessible to the public:

I. Bayerisches Nationalmuseum, Munich, Inv. No. NN1782. This example features less laborious iron bounds, the surface of the carriage seems refreshed in modern times.

II. Musée de l'armée, Paris. Inv. No. Q61, Q.37/2, Q.36/1, Q35/2, Q31/1 and Q 33/1. The Patina on the bronze barrels has been destroyed by overcleaning them, on the majority of cannons also the surface of the wooden carriages.

Further reading: Decker, M., Leluc, S. (1994): Petits modèles d'artillerie. Musée de l'Armée Hotel national des Invalides, pp. 47.







Richard-Wagner-Str. 17 · 28209 Bremen · Germany  
T+49 (0)421 4093 6994 · [info@lennartviebahn.com](mailto:info@lennartviebahn.com)  
[www.lennartviebahn.com](http://www.lennartviebahn.com)