
**RARE PAIRE DE PETITS CANONS D'APPARAT SUR AFFUTS EN BOIS SCULPTÉ,
POLYCHROME ROUGE ET NOIR AVEC RÉHAUTS D'OR**

VERS 1700 – 1710



Hauteur : 25 cm

Longueur : 70,5 cm

Largeur : 43 cm

Restaurations d'usage et d'entretien

Légers manques

Littérature comparative :

-P. Malgouyres, "Armes Européennes, Histoire d'une Collection" au Musée du Louvre, Paris 2014, catalogue XXII et LVIII.

- Exposition, Paris 2019-2020, « Les canons de l'élégance », Musée de l'Armée, catalogue pages 44-45.

Ils sont munis de trois tubes courts en bronze peint en noir, moulés, en une seule pièce, celui du milieu plus long au culot percé de la lumière ; les affûts sur roues pleines sont ornés de motifs rayonnants, de C, de fleurons, de rinceaux, de palmes, de fleurs, de cannelures, d'une branche de laurier et du cartouche aux armoiries royales aux trois fleurs de lys ; sous chaque affût, monogramme peint « C.L » correspondant vraisemblablement au fabricant.

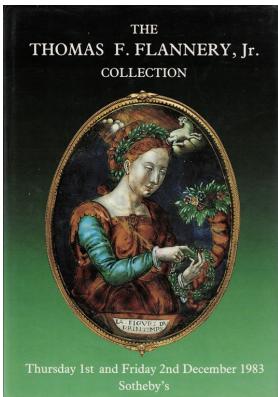
Ces canons sont d'une taille bien inférieure à celle du modèle réduit offert à Louis XIV en 1676 par le parlement de Franche-Comté d'une longueur de 126 cm qui appartient au Musée de l'Armée (inv. 1009 I /O 212 ROB). Leur taille se rapproche davantage à celle du petit canon dit du Dauphin Louis, duc de Normandie, attribué à Michael Mann (vers 1560- 1630 ?), long de 97 cm, visible dans les collections du Musée du Louvre (inv. MS 216).



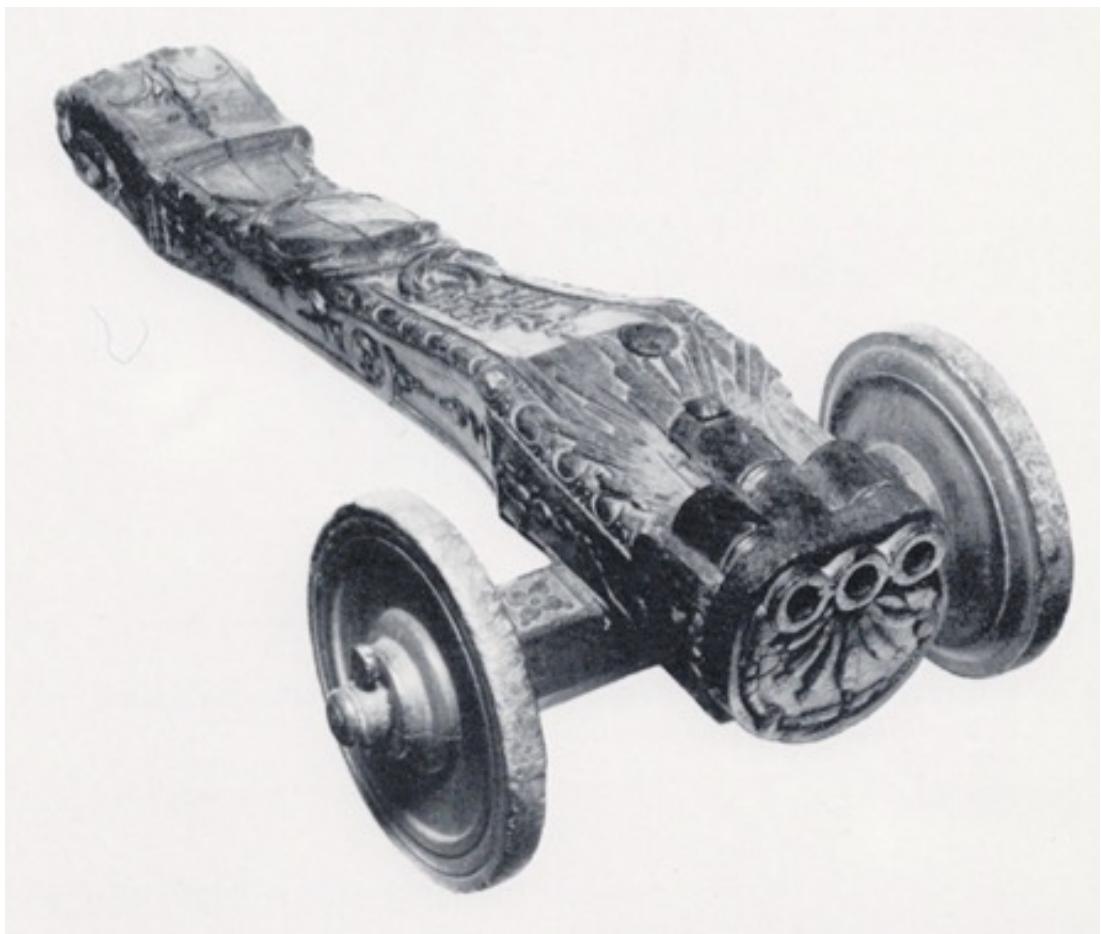
Cependant, il ne s'agit pas ici à proprement parler de modèles réduits, cadeaux royaux ou princiers, mais plutôt de pièces destinées à être utilisées lors de célébrations ou de divertissements. Leur système à tir multiple, grâce à ses tubes accolés, permettait en effet de tirer trois coups simultanément mais sur de faible distance. Leur appartenance aux collections royales ne fait guère de doute à l'image du petit canon en bronze aux trois fleurs de lys de Charles IX du Louvre (inv.OA 6946).

Peu de modèles nous sont parvenus de ce type de canons. Un seul autre exemple est à signaler ayant appartenu à la collection de Thomas F. Flannery Jr vendue en décembre 1983 chez Sotheby's. Réalisé par le même arquebusier, il est d'un décor très comparable, les armoiries royales ayant été pas contre bûchées.





Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd December 1983
Sotheby's



375 A RARE FRENCH TRIPLE BARRELLED SIGNAL CANNON

The barrels cast in one piece with two small barrels flanking a slightly longer barrel, single touch-hole to fire all barrels simultaneously, the massive oak carriage carved in relief with régence sprigs and husks, bordered by egg-and-dart bands at the edges, and with an oval escutcheon framed by foliate scrolls, all against a ground of painted vermilion; carriage cracked and one splinter missing near to the barrels.

31 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. long (80cm.)

First quarter 18th Century

The pair to this cannon is in the Musée de l'Armée in Paris. According to M. Charles, these cannon were made for Louis XV as a boy. After the French Revolution many objects from the confiscated Royal Collections were sold to provide funds for the 1792–1795 war. Furniture and artifacts which remained in France usually had all traces of a Royal provenance removed to make them more saleable. This would account for the erased coat of arms on the escutcheon

A BEAUTIFUL AND RARE PAIR OF LOUIS XIV MINIATURE “POMP” CANNONS.

CIRCA 1700 – 1710



**25 cm High = 9 7/8 inches.
70,5 cm Wide = 27 3/4 inches.
43 cm Deep = 16 15/16 inches.**

Usual restorations and maintenance.

A similar example formerly in the Thomas F. Flannery JR collection, Sotheby's London, 1st December 1983, lot 375.

Comparative Litterature:

- P. Malgouyres, "Armes Européennes, Histoire d'une Collection » au Musée du Louvre, Paris 2014, catalogue XXII and LVIII.
- Exhibition, Paris 2019-2020, « Les canons de l'élégance », Musée de l'Armée, catalogue pages 44-45.

The cannons are put above carved, polychromatic red and black with gilded enhanced motifs wood carriages. They each present two solid wheels and are adorned with radiating palm motifs, C-shaped motifs, flowerets, foliages (rinceaux), palms, flowers, flutes, a laurel leaves branch and a wide cartouche with the three "fleurs de Lys" (lilies) royal coat of arms.

Beneath each carriage, there is the painted "C.L" monogram that might correspond to the maker's name. They each are fitted with cast in one piece, two small barrels flanking a slightly longer one, single touch-hole to fire all barrels simultaneously, all in black painted bronze.



Commentary:

These cannons are of a much smaller size than the small-scale model that was offered to king Louis XIV in 1676 by the parliament of Franche-Comté (4 feet 1 1/2 inches long) that belongs to the Musée de l'Armée (Inv.1009-1/0.212 ROB)

Their size is closer to the smaller one, called "Dauphin Louis" duke of Normandy and which is attributed to Michael Mann (circa 1580-1630, 3 feet 1 3/4 inches long), that is visible in the Louvre Museum collections (Inv.MS-216).

However, it is not here the matter strictly speaking of small-scale models, royal or princely gifts, but rather of pieces that were intended to be used for celebrations or entertainments.

Their multiple fire-shooting system, with their side-by-side set tubes, allowed to shoot simultaneously, but on short distances.

Their belonging to the royal collections makes almost no doubts, i.e the small bronze cannon with three fleurs de Lys that belonged to king Charles IX at the Louvre (Inv.OA.6946).

Very few of this type of cannons have survived the XVIIIth century. To our knowledge, a single other example that belonged to the Thomas F. Flannery Collection is known (1983).

It was realized by the same arquebusier. It has a very comparable décor, the royal coat of arms having been erased (probably during the Revolutionary period).

In the notice of the Flannery collection catalogue, they mention that the matching cannon is at the Musée de l'Armée. This information remains to be confirmed. Researches are currently in process.

Our pair is all the more so since remarkable that it seems unique because it kept its whole décor.



This cannons which have escaped the revolutionary destructions are precious evidence of this small models that were used at the French Court during celebrations or spectacular simulated battles, such as those that took place on the Grand Canal of Versailles castle.

