

SA1189449

Rare North African Musket
with Tower Lock, mid-19th
century.

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1189449****Date of manufacture: 19th Century**

Description

A rare unusual and decorative hybrid musket, which is typical of many Ottoman muskets. Regulation British smoothbore barrel, .600 calibre, 39 inches in length, with original brass trigger guard. Military lock plate clearly marked "1856 TOWER", with crowned VR stamped to the tang. The stock reworked in distinctive North African style: butt overlaid with cowrie shells arranged in tight curved rows, the fore-end sheathed in scroll-embossed white metal (possibly low grade silver) panels and secured by seven white metal barrel bands. Additional Arabic inscription to the barrel reading "al-Hajj Ali", denoting ownership by a Muslim pilgrim. These decorated muskets were popular across the Maghreb in the 19th century, combining British surplus military locks and barrels with local decorative tastes, serving both as functional arms and prestige display pieces. Condition: Lock complete but showing rust and wear, cock frozen, wood with losses around breech but stable; decorative metalwork aged with patina. Cowrie shell butt intact with minor losses. Not suitable for firing. Arabic script as something like: ????? ?? (al-Hajj Ali) ? "The Pilgrim Ali" This is a common form of per...

Internal Ref: M1-312-8

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