

SA1228892

WWI Hungarian Pow Trench Art Carved Wooden Letter Opener, Krasnojarsk Siberia 1916

Price

GBP 400

| USD \$542 | EUR 468

Item Reference: SA1228892**Date of manufacture: 1910**

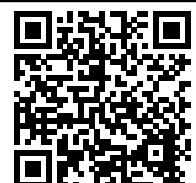
Description

An exceptional World War I wooden letter opener, hand-carved in 1916 by a Hungarian prisoner of war held at the Russian Imperial POW camp in Krasnoyarsk, Siberia. The blade bears the meticulously chip-carved Hungarian-language inscription KRASNOJARSK-SZIBERIA 1916. The Hungarian spelling Szibéria directly identifies the carver's nationality, making this a poignant piece of Hungarian national heritage rather than a generic trench art item. The flared handle features two full-length depictions of an infantryman in standard field uniform with field cap, greatcoat and rifle, one on each face. The background is finished with fine punched stippling, and the terminal is shaped as an oak acorn, a traditional symbol of bravery. The piece is carved from Siberian cedar, worked by the prisoner from locally available timber. Length 35.5 cm; maximum width 4.3 cm; weight 26 g. Technique: hand-carved relief and chip carving with punched stippling. In excellent antique condition: no structural cracks, splits or restorations; the carving remains exceptionally crisp, with minor surface and handling wear consistent with age. While brass trench art is common, wooden POW carvings of this scu...

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