50 A SILVER-MOUNTED FLINTLOCK BLUNDERBUSS FROM THE PERSONAL ARMOURY OF TIPU SULTAN, BY ASAD-E DIN DAR, THE ROYAL WORKSHOPS, SERINGAPATAM, LATE 18TH CENTURY

with slender barrels formed in two stages with moulded grooves between, belted towards the muzzle, decorated with gold koburg bands of running jumna ornament over its length and with supplementary small patterns of plantain leaves over the breech and medallion, inlaid with a Persian Qatrain in gold, together with a small cartouche filled with the maker's signature, place of manufacture and the Hijri date 1212 (1799-1800), bearing a "Haydar" talismanic square and gold-lined control mark; the tiger mask cypher of Tipu Sultan and the tang with characteristic brief inscriptions also in gold koburg, strongly formed koburg-shaped lock with engraved borders and bevelled edges, inscribed with the maker's signature, the place of manufacture, the Mewndi date 1223 (1799-1800) and a "Haydar" talismanic square all in gold koburg, and fitted with safety-catch and roller (the cock with a professional early repair, the mainspring cracked, the inscribed date perhaps a later addition), moulded figured walnut full stock carved with plantain sprays in low relief about the trigger-guard and ramrod-pipe, enriched with a series of large plantain leaves inlaid in horn about the lock, and the side-plate, and further incorporated within the shell-like relief carvings about the barrel tang and the comb of the butt, the latter also decorated with a characteristic sweeping single flute following the full contour of the butt, with full silver mounts cast low relief and chased with small jumna and plantain motifs, including butt-plate also incorporating a large pineapple final; koburg-shaped skeleton side-plate, small ramrod-pipes, oval escutcheon cut with the tiger-mask cypher of Tipu Sultan, the butt-plate and trigger-guard with "Haydar" control marks, retaining one original sling-swivel (the other replaced), and original iron ramrod

100.7cm

PROVENANCE

LITERATURE

INScriptions
On the barrel, in mirror from creating a tiger-face: assadulah alghali "The Lion of God is Triumphant" karkhanaye ye / hozor "Royal court workshop" or "His Highness's workshop" tilag-e bi-risal-e khodaye hend be bashid baḵte susan thaniye ye u tavanad saravan khan-e khaṣm bar-dehsh sadaf gandad agar pishay ye /u "The peerless gun of the Emperor of India To which the forked lightning is second Can seal the fate of the enemy If the enemy's forehead is made the target"
Place of manufacture Patan, and maker's name Asad-e Din Dar "Asad the pious". Dated in Hijri 11 year 1212/1799-1800 The talismanic square with the letters HYO/R for "Haydar".
The control mark "Haydar" in gold.
On the tang: the magic number 313 which represents a curse on ten (three thirteen) meaning destroyed, ruined. Recommended measure for shot as: 4.8 dm "Shot 63". Bonecarvings of the tangle and the butt, on the silvar, in mirror form creating a tiger-face: asadulah alghali "The Lion of God is Triumphant". On the trigger-guard, the control mark "Haydar" in silver. On the lock: place of manufacture Patan, and the maker's name Asad-e Din Dar "Asad the pious". Dated in the Mewndi year 1223/1799-1800. The talismanic square with letter HYO/R for "Haydar". The control mark "Haydar" in gold.
The date on the barrel reads 1212, a date not falling within the Mewndi system. The first alternative would be to read it as a date within the Hijri system but this might perhaps be disregarded since the Hijri fell out of official use in Mysore after 1798. A further alternative would be to treat the date as 1221, this would place it within the Mewndi systems (1792-93) and thus within the reign of Tipu Sultan. £15,000-20,000 £21,905-29,200

LONDON, 25 MAY 2009 • 95
AN EXTREMELY RARE MATCHLOCK CARBINE (TUFANG) UNIQUE TO THE PUBLIC (AMMUNITION) WORKSHOPS AT SERINGAPATAM, BY ABD AL-QA'DIR, DATED THE MAWLU'DI YEAR 1226 (1797-98)

with characteristic barrel formed in five stages segmented by four moulded grooves each inset with patterned bands of silver, cut with differing panels of bold fluting both over the greater two sections at the rear and also over the flared muzzle section, initial with the maker's signature, the date and place of manufacture all in silver on a very short section between the rearmost grooves, cut with a series of small decorated cartouches forward of the middle, largely involving bird subjects, cut with lines of running bukhi ornament flanking a piyus invocation (inaii) in silver over the breech, and the breech and the barrel tang each with the original barrelmaker's stamps now erased, large bukhi-shaped lock with bivalved edges, inscribed in brief on the inside, the outside surface with 'Hayder' control mark, the maker's signature and the place of manufacture, and inscribed with both a 'Hayder' talismanic square and the date at the rear, fitted with a small somewhat atrophied version of a conventional flintlock pan-cover with roller and self-opener on the forward section of the match-holder, with sliding safety catch and bukhi-shaped match-holder, the latter with match aperture forming the mouth of a chiselled tiger's fang, with hardwood full stock carved with bukhi-shaped contour mouldings about the middle and with additional mouldings about both the barrel tang and the comb of the butt, the latter of typically downswept form, fitted with an iron twin-aperture subsidiary match-holder incorporating sliding bolts to stop the match, and the butt struck with a 'Hayder' talismanic square, with full brass mounts struck with 'Hayder' control mark, the butt-plate finals, the side-plate and the trigger-guard all formed as series of zubris, with small ramrod-pipes, brass fore-end clip, original brass sling-swept, and original iron ramrod

93.4cm. barrel

LITERATURE

INSCRIPTIONS
On the barrel ...m karkhana "...Workshop"
Dated in the Mawlu'di year 1226/1716-17
Place of manufacture Patan, and the maker's name 'Abd al-Qa'dir
safane kibrail jafir safane e jahar ari
ze Hayder bar 'abd al-mu'min mim shod safar peyde (?)
"It is a magnificent gun of the World-renowned Sultan
Through Hayder, the victory of Muhammad over the enemy became
triumphantly apparent (!)

On the lock: the talismanic square with the letters HY/DR for 'Hayder'
Place of manufacture Patan, and the maker's name 'Abd al-Qa'dir
Dated in the Mawlu'di year 1226/1716-17. The control mark 'Hayder'

This carbine belongs to a highly distinctive and very small surviving group
intended for military use. Of these, the present example and that offered as
the immediately following lot are currently recorded as by far the most
complete and original.

By the sophisticated standards of gunmaking achieved in the public workshops
of Seringapatam, the matchlock system of ignition would have been outraged
by the latter years of Tipu Sultan's reign. It has been suggested that
the incorporation of a barrel intended for flintlock ignition and the relative ease
with which the lock-mechanism could be converted, reveal the intention to
create a near-interchangeable mechanism. The advantages of such are open to
conjecture.

£10,000-15,000
£14,500-21,000
52 AN EXTREMELY RARE MATCH-LOCK CARBINE (TUFANG) UNIQUE TO THE PUBLIC (MUNITION) WORKSHOP AT SERINGSAPRATAM, BY MUHAMMAD ALI, DATED THE MUGHALLUDE YEAR 1229 (1717-1718)
of identical pattern to the preceding carbine (the butt does not bear a talismanic square)
91.5cm. barrel

LITERATURE

INSCRIPTIONS
On the barrel, traces of a stamped signature as ‘Amal...’ ‘The work of...’
On the lock:
Maker’s name as Muhammad Ali, place of manufacture Patan
Dated in the Mughal year 1229/1717-18
The talismanic square with the letters H/Y/D/R for ‘Haydar’
The control marks ‘Haydar’ and the letter ‘N’.

£10,000-15,000
€14,000-21,000
53 A FLINTLOCK BLUNDERBUSS, MYSORE, THE BARREL, LOCK AND MOUNTS BY ASADE SHUKUR, THE PUBLIC WORKSHOP SERINGAPATAM, DATED MAWLUD YEAR 1223 (1794-95)

with strongly bevelled slender iron barrel formed in two stages with moulded girdle between, the muzzle decorated with a large panel of gold leaf/filigree foliage spiralling on large expanded flowerheads, the tang engraved, finely punched over the rear half of its length with the tiger mask cypher of Tipu Sultan, a "Haydar" talismanic square and control mark, the maker’s signature, the date and place of manufacture together with small designs of plantain foliage, and struck with modern Hyderabad armory marks on the left of the breech, plain bevelled lock with "Haydar" talismanic square and control mark together with the maker’s signature and date and place of manufacture all in Kofgari, fitted with sliding safety-catch, engraved bulb-shaped pan-cover, and the cock with tiger’s head jaws chiselled in the round (right wear and pitting). 19th century hardwood full stock inlaid over the rear with a series of both vacant and engraved mother-of-pearl plaques and overlaid with a section of ivory behind the breech, slender faceted butt with ivory cap (chipped), chequered grip and fore-end, retaining its original matching full set of brass mounts, comprising of engraved trigger-guard with plantain spray finsals, engraved bulb-shaped skeleton side-plate, and engraved small ramrod-pipes, complete with iron ring-ewails and iron ramrod of Seringapatam type (the fore-end cap is modern replacement).

106cm

LITERATURE
Robin Wigram, op. cit., 1992, TR17, pp. 92-94

INSCRIPTIONS
On the barrel in mirror form creating a tiger face: asadullah urquahu "The Lion of God is Triumphant"

On the barrel, and repeated on the lock:
Place of manufacture Pateri, and maker’s name Asade Shukur "Asad the Grateful"
Dated in the Mawlud year 1223 / 1794-5.
The talismanic square with the letters H/V/D/R for ‘Haydar’.
The control mark "Haydar".

£3,000-7,000
€7,300-13,500
54 A SUPERB 17-BORE TWO-SHOT SUPERIMPOSED-LOAD SILVER-MOUNTED PLINTLOCK SPORTING GUN FROM THE PERSONAL ARMOURY OF TIPU SULTAN, "THE TIGER OF MYSORE", BY ASAD KHAN-E MUHAMMAD, SERINGAPATAM, DATED THE MAWLUD YEAR 1222 (1765-66)

with blued barrel decorated with silver kargari blobs in a close-set regular pattern over its full length ahead of the breech, fitted with silver fore-sight cast as a tiger in high relief and encircled, as if reading, within a pool of gold concentric rings, with three parts of a quadrat inscribed in gold along the short top flat, two-stage octagonal breech formed with an additional chamber for the superposed charge and the pan incorporating a rotary tap-action chamber for the sequential priming and ignition of successive charges, finely inlaid with small panels of gold-flowering silver foliage together with strips of stylised bud ornament framing both the inlaid fourth line of the quadrat and the royal Sun devices of Tipu Sultan, struck with a gold-lined 'Haydar' control mark, and inlaid at the base with a band of three gold cartouches filled with the maker's signature, the place and date of manufacture, and a 'Haydar' talismanic square, with decorated breech tang inscribed with the silver magic numbers '313', partially enclosed, ink signed and inscribed with the place of manufacture in gold characters beneath the pan, struck with gold-filled 'Haydar' control mark, the entire rear half finely chiselled in relief as a seated tiger, the jaws of the cock forming the tiger's head, heightened with silver blobs throughout, the eyes and subsidiary detail inlaid in gold, inscribed with both the date and a 'Haydar' talismanic square in gold on the haunches, fitted with safety-catch drummed in the form of a miniature tiger moving on the back of the principal subject, and the back face of the steel (pan-cover) inlaid with further small silver blobs encircling a single bud relief, figured hardwood full stock carved with palmette mouldings in low relief about the breach tang and the trigger-guard, the butt finely carved in the form of a crouching tiger, in high relief, partially in the round, cut with a contrasting pattern of black-stained budorns inset with shaped silver wire, and inlaid with brass eyes, with full silver mounts cast in low relief, comprising butt-plate decorated with bud ornament along the sides and with a pair of Royal Muslim tigers devouring the Hindu double-eagle of Mysore (the emblem of the deposed House of Wodeyar), large side-plate pierced with the allegorical scene of warriors killed by tigers (a further reference to the fall of Wodeyar), the trigger-guard and escutcheon each decorated in continuation of the theme, with two short ramrod-pipes, the third cast with a tiger mask, silver fore-end cap, original iron sling-swivels and ramrod, and in fine condition throughout.

Barrel 978mm.

PROVENANCE
Presented to Lord Cornwallis following the fall of Serengipatam in 1799
Thence to the Earls of Pembroke at Wilton House
EXHIBITED
The Indian Heritage, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, 1982, cat. no. 464, p.139


LITERATURE
Robin Wighton, op. cit, 1982, TI 10, pp. 67-73

INSRIPTIONS
On the barrel:

Tofang-e bi-nizāre khosaw-e hend
ke bāshad bāz-e sūzan tārīyi ye
saavan sar-evel-e kha'ān bād-shēdht
hazaf gandaf agar pahām ye u

"The peerless gun of the Emperor of India
To which the forked lightning is secreted
Can seal the fate of the enemy
If [the enemy's] forehead is made the target".

Piece of manufacture Patan, and the maker's name Asad Khan-e Muhammad 'Asad Khan [son of] Muhammad'.

Dated in the Mawlid year 1222/1713-4.

The talismanic square with the letter H/Y/D/R for 'Haydar'.

The control mark 'Haydar' in gold.

On the tang: the magic number 312 which represents a curse in Islam (three thirteen) meaning destroyed, ruined.

On the lock: place of manufacture Patan, and the maker's name Asad Khan-e Muhammad 'Asad Khan [son of] Muhammad'.

Dated in the Mawlid year 1222/1713-4.

The talismanic square with the letters H/Y/D/R for 'Haydar'.

The control mark 'Haydar' in gold.

This gun is considered to be among Tipu Sultan's finest and the most strikingly iconic.

£80,000-120,000
€117,000-175,000
AN EXCEPTIONAL CONTEMPORARY WORKING MINIATURE GUN MODELLED ON THE CELEBRATED TWO-SHOT SUPERIMPOSED-LOADED FLINTLOCK FOWLING-PIECE MADE FOR TIPU SULTAN BY ASAD KHAN E MUHAMMAD OF SERINGAPORE, 20TH CENTURY

constructed to near perfect scale and with minutely accurate detail throughout, with blued barrel with silver tiger fore-sight, decorated over its length with a close-set pattern of silver beads, engraved and gilt bands at the muzzle and Persian inscriptions engraved and gilt over the short flat ahead of the octagonal breech section, and the breech engraved and gilt with further inscriptions within a framework of gilt flowers incorporating a silver Divine Sun device, the adopted emblem of Tipu Sultan's royal standard, with enclosed lock engraved and gilt with the original maker's signature, gilt 'Haydar' control mark and fitted with a top-action rotary pan for priming the additional superimposed charge, the rear half of the lock and the cock each chased in the form of a seated tiger in relief, enriched with silver beads and a gilt 'Haydar' talismanic square, and also incorporating a safety-catch on the rearward top edge, the sliding stud formed as a minute tiger in suit with the fore-sight, with highly figured full stock of exotic hardwood, the butt carved with the openwork relief figure of a crouching tiger inlaid with silver beads and gold eyes, with decorated full silver-plated mounts, blued iron trigger, silver sling-swivels, correctly styled ramrod, and in near pristine condition

46 cm.

INSCRIPTIONS
- sarang-e bimizhe khozwave heed
- khorshad baq-e susan them-ye u
- tanand sarzwave the khairi bardesh
- badaf garmad gair pisheh-ye u
- "The peerless gun of the Emperor of India
To which the forked lightning is second
Can seal the fate of the enemy
If [the enemy's] forehead is made the target"

Dated in the Mewar calendar year 1222 M (1713 CE)
Maker's name, as Asad Khan-e Muhammad 'Asad, [son of] Muhammad, place of manufacture, Patan
The talismanic square with the letters HYQ(Y)F(R) for 'Haydar'
On the lock, maker's name as, Asad Khan-e Muhammad 'Asad, [son of] Muhammad, place of manufacture, Patan
£3,000-4,000
€4,000-5,900
66 A 16-BORE SILVER-MOUNTED FLINTLOCK FOWLING-PIECE FROM THE ARMOURY OF TIPU SULTAN, BY ASAD-E RAHAMAN, SERINGAPATAM, DATED THE MAWLUDI YEAR 1222 (1713-14)

with recess barrel with silver fore-sight enclosed by a design of scrollwork damascened in gold, decorated with a band of gold budri ornament at the muzzle, elaborate sprays of silver foliage picked out with gold leaves and flowerheads inhabited by a silver rat, the latter secreted behind a silver anvil, the pursuit by a gold tiger along both sides of the breech, inlaid with the maker's signature and both the place and date of manufacture in gold within a pair of cartouches at the base, a central silver linear panel filled with a Persian quatrains, a 'Haydar' talismanic square and the tiger mask cypher of Tipu Sultan all in fine gold inlay, enriched with a further design of gold and silver leaves towards the medallion, with 'Haydar' control mark and the vent each lined in gold, the tang inscribed with the magic number 313, rounded lock with internal cock and steel spring, finely chased with a large tiger devouring a European figure, the cock forming the tiger's head and the beak picked-out in silver budri, signed in gold in front of the pan, inscribed with the date and a 'Haydar' talismanic square in gold at the rear, and fitted with safety catch: the stud formed as a diminutive tiger sliding along the back of the principal tiger subject, with figured walnut full stock finely carved in the English taste with a shell in low relief about the breech tang, and the butt carved with a characteristic flute trailing the lower contour of the comb and issuant from a leaf
moulding at the front, full silver mounts finely cast in low relief, comprising butt-plate decorated with chased spirals of foliage about the screw-heads and with a conventional plantain final, triggerguard decorated with running panels of bushes each filled with an antelope devoured by a tiger, and small ramrod-pipes of characteristic type, with silver escutcheon en suite with the side-plate and involving a human figure devoured by a tiger, silver fore-end cap, original iron sling-sockets, and original ramrod.

Barrel 96.8cm.

LITERATURE
Robin Wigington, op.cit., 1992, TR9, pp.63-66

INSCRIPTIONS
On the barrel, in mirror form creating a tiger’s face:

- aamudullah el-ghalfi
- ‘The Lion of God is Triumphant’
- tofeng-e bi-nazare khordaye hend
- ke beshad bange azarai thani-ye u
- tavanad sarbehast-e kheisan bandasht.

hadef garedg agar pish-i-ye u
“The peerless gun of the Emperor of India
To which the forked lightning is second
Can seal the fate of the enemy
If [the enemy’s] forehead is made the target”

Place of manufacture Patan, and maker’s name Aasak-e
Rahman ‘Asad, the compassionate’ or ‘Asad [son of] Rahman’
Dated in the Mawlid year 1222/1703-4
The talismanic square with the letters HVDYFR for “Haydar”

On the tang: the magic number 313 which represents a curse on ta’ah (three thousand meaning destroyed, ruined).

On the lock: place of manufacture Patan, and maker’s name Aasak-e Rahman ‘Asad, the compassionate’ or ‘Asad [son of] Rahman’
Dated in Mawlid year 1222/1703-4
The talismanic square with the letters HVDYFR for “Haydar”

£40,000-45,000
€58,500-66,000
57 A 17-BORE SILVER-MOUNTED FLINTLOCK SPORTING GUN FROM THE PERSONAL ARMOURY OF THE TIPO
SULTAN, BY SAYYID MA'SUM, SERINGAPATAM, DATED THE MAWLUD YEAR 1221 (1712-33)

with tapering barrel with silver fore-sight framed within a
cartouche of delicate flowers damascened in gold, decorated
with a band of gold jubiris at the muzzle, an inlaid schema of
gold flowering foliage involving a gold tiger in pursuit of a
silver antelope along both sides of the breech, with the
maker’s signature, the place and the date of manufacture
 Together with both the ‘safar’ talismanic square and the
control mark all inlaid in gold at the breech of the breech, a
Persian quatrains inscribed in gold with a linear charming to a
narrow running pattern of gold flowers extending to the fore-
sight, with gold-lined vent, engraved breech tang, enclosed
screwless lock almost certainly adopted from an original
English lock, inscribed in gold with the signature of Sayyid
Ma’sum, the latter place of manufacture and with both the
date and a ‘safar’ talismanic square at the rear, gold-lined
pan, and fitted with a small safety-catch chiselled in the form
of a miniature tiger moving on the upper edge behind the
cock, figured without full stock carved with pannetta mouldings
in low relief about both the breech, the latter moulding
forming the starting point of a characteristic rear-swept flute,
full silver mounts decorated in the neo-English Rococo style of
Seringapatam, comprising butt-plate formed with a trap for a
bayonet (missing), chiselled with a band of jubiris and involving
a pair of Huma birds, pierced side-plate cast in low relief, the
trigger-guard incorporating Indian small flower motifs and the
final ansata with the trigger-guard, small ramrods, pipes, six
budr-shaped escutcheons for the barrel-bolts, silver fore-end
 cap, chased beaded escutcheon, silver-gilt sling-swivels, and
the original iron ramrod

Barrel 970cm

EXHIBITED
The Indian Heritage, Victoria and Albert Museum, London,
1982, cat. no.465, p. 139
LITERATURE
Robin Wighton, op. cit., 1992, TRB, pp.68-61

INSCRIPTIONS
On the barrel:
cha taymur shah ghafo-e din panah
kinaad azna ba kur-e khod taref
neenah midehast az kalim o 'rex
be-kuff he, baw vash vafque-jang

'As the warrior Timur Shah, the refuge of the religion
Makes the gun a companion to his palm
It reflects Moses and the staff
And the pharsesh-like infidels in time of war"

Place of manufacture Patan, and the maker's name Sayyid Molaun
Dated in the Mawledi year 1221/1702-3
The talismanic square with the letters H/Y/D/R for 'Haydar'
The control mark 'Haydar' in gold

On the lock: place of manufacture Patan, and the maker's name Sayyid Molaun
Dated in the Mawledi year 1221/1702-3
The talismanic square with the letters H/Y/D/R for 'Haydar'
The lock closely resembles that successfully introduced by the London gunmaker Henry Nock in 1786. Nock was contracted to the East India Company and the Royal East India Volunteer Regiment, 1777-1803.

£30,000-40,000
€43,000-58,500