AN 11-BORE SILVER-MOUNTED FLINTLOCK DUCK GUN
FROM THE PERSONAL ARMOURY OF TIPU SULTAN,
SIGNED SAYYID MA'SUM, PATAM, DATED MAWULDI
YEAR 1218 (1799-90)

with English long russet twist barrel swamped at the muzzle, rotating its silver 'spider' fore-sight and gold vent, inlaid with sprays of silver foliage and gold flowerheads encircling the Serengapatam maker's signature, date and place of manufacture and a talismanic 'Haydar' square all inscribed in gold at the base of the breech, inlaid with a central silver linear panel framing a Persian quatraine and tapering to a loop finial enclosing a gold tiger, and the English proof marks and maker's mark now erased, also retaining the original English breech tang and lock, the latter fitted with safety-catch and roller, now signed, dated and inscribed with a 'Haydar' talismanic square in gold, and the cock chiselled in the form of a babi with tiger's head jaws chiselled in the round, with moulded figurred hardwood half-stock carved in low relief, decorated with a pair of bud-shaped plantain leaves conjoined with a palmette about the breech tang, a small plantain moulding about the triggerguard final, and the butt carved with a further palmette trailing leaf tendrils and forming the starting point of a characteristic volute sweeping around the base of the comb, silver mounts cast in low relief, decorated in the Neo-English fashion and incorporating small designs of foliage in the Southern India taste, including buttpiece, triggerguard with pineapple final, and four moulded ramrod pipes, the forward three characterised by very short, horn fore-and-cap, and original iron ramrod slotted for fitting a transverse bar

Barrel 147cm.

EXHIBITED
The Indian Heritage, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, 1982, cat. no.466, p.139

LITERATURE
Robin Wighton, op.cit., 1982, TR4, pp.49-51

INSCRIPTIONS
On the barrel:

tofig-e bi-naz-nie khasaw-e hech
As bahsh-e fagheh sulez hon-thaye la
kawad-e sazweh-sha hech hahzeh
hadd-e gerdad agar pishni-yay a

'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 Patam, and maker's name Sayyid Ma' sum
Dated in the Mawuldi year 1219/1799-90
The talismanic square with the letters HVDR for 'Haydar'

£25,000-35,000
£36,500-51,500
A 20-BORE ROYAL SILVER-MOUNTED FLINTLOCK SPORTING GUN BY SAYYID MA'SUM, SERINGAPATAM, PRESENTED TO HIS EXCELLENCY NIZAM ALI KHAN BAHADUR IN AH 1212 (1797-98), DATED A.H. 1198 (1793-94)

with tapering barrel inlaid with silver scrollwork enclosing the silver fore-sight and with a running pattern of silver koftgari flowers over the full length of the breech, inlaid with a series of silver inscriptions, comprising the maker's signature, the date and place of manufacture and a 'Haydar' talismannic square, engraved with the full royal title of the subsequent owner also recording the date of ownership, and the vent lined in gold, the tang decorated with a koftgari pattern on suite, with plan lock fitted with large sliding safety-catch and a modern bun-shaped cock with tiger's head jaws, and inlaid with the maker's signature, the date and place of manufacture together with a talismannic square all in gold, figured walnut full-stock, the butt carved in the English taste with a shell in low relief about the breech tang, the comb of the butt formed with a flattened concave upper edge carved in a volute at the front, a single flute characteristically following the lower contour of the comb, and the butt inlaid with silver wire scrolls, full silver mounts cast in low relief, the butt-plate with hinged trap for a bayonet (missing) and decorated with engraved sun motifs, in the manner of Tipu Sultan's Royal Standard, the trigger-guard decorated with a large flowerhead in low relief on the bow and with a Neo-English Rococo final, bun-shaped side-plate cast with a pattern of flowers en suite with the barrel, spirally-fluted ramrods, silver fore-end cap, escutcheon decorated with an expanded flowerhead in low relief, iron trigger cut with a rubri pattern, and original ramrod.

Barrel: 96.5cm.

PROVENANCE
The Armoury of the Nizam of Hyderabad

LITERATURE
Robin Wightman, op.cit., 1992, TR1, pp.39-42

INSCRIPTIONS
On the barrel:
Maker's name, Sayyid Ma'sum, dated in hijri year 1198/1783-4, and the place of manufacture, Patan.
The talismannic square with the letters H/Y/V/D/V/R for 'Haydar'.
With the added name:
sarkar nizam 'alikhan bahadur 1212
'This Excellency, Nizam 'Ali Khan Bahadur A.H. 1212 (1797-98)'
On the lock: maker's name as, Sayyid Ma'sum, and the place of manufacture, Patan.
The talismannic square with the letters H/Y/V/D/V/R for 'Haydar'.
Robin Wightman writes, 'I believe that this gun was part of a diplomatic gift made to the Nizam of Hyderabad by Tipu Sultan in 1798, less than a year before he died defending Seringapatam.' Nizam 'Ali Khan of Hyderabad ruled 1762-1803.
The date of the manufacture of this gun pre-dates the introduction of Tipu Sultan's Mowgli system.

£20,000-25,000
€23,200-36,500
60 A 9-BORE SILVER-MOUNTED FLINTLOCK DUCK GUN FROM THE PERSONAL ARMOURY OF TIPU SULTAN, SIGNED SAYID MA'SUM, PATAN (SERINGAPATAM), DATED THE MAWLUDI YEAR 1220 (1791-2)

with English long barrel with slightly swan-neck muzzle and retaining its original silver 'spider' fore-sight and gold varnish, decorated with sprays of silver foliage and gold flowerheads enclosing the signature of Sayid Ma'sum and both the place and date of manufacture all inscribed in gold at the base of the breech, a long silver linear panel framing a 'Haydar' talismanic square and a Persian Austrain engraved and gilt on a gilt ground and tapering towards a gold tiger within the forward terminal, with engraved brass tang decorated with a trophy-of-arms and inscribed with the Persian numerals '59', bevelled plain lock also of English origin now signed, dated, and inscribed with both the place of manufacture and a 'Haydar' talismanic square all in gold, fitted with roller, safety-catch and disinfected fluted-shaped cock, the jaws disinfected as a tiger's head in the round, figured walnut half-stock curved in low relief, decorated with a shell or palmetto moulding about the breach tang, and the butt curved with a matching motif forming the characteristic starting point of a single volute sweeping around the base of the comb, silver mounts finely chased and border-engraved in the Anglo-Indian fashion, including the butt-plate involving three human birds within a naturalistic vignette, trigger-guard decorated with a single flower on the bow and with pineapple final, three ramrod-pipes of characteristic short type, and large silver fore-end cap decorated with a single swagged flower.

Barrel: 147.3cm.

LITERATURE
Robin Wiginton, op.cit., 1992, TR6, pp.54-56

INSCRIPTIONS
On the barrel:
Tervo qe bir-nana khabara-ê hand
ke bashed ban e susan than-ye u
tavared sanawashi-ê khaum bari-diash
nafej gared egar pasnari-vey u
"The peerless gun of the Emperor of India"
To which the forked lightning is second.
Can see the fate of the enemy
If the enemy's forehead is made the target"

On the barrel, and repeated on the lock: the talismanic square with the letters HYDYQ for "Haydar", place of manufacture Patan, and maker's name Sayid Ma'sum, dated in the Mawludi year 1220 (1791-2).

In Mughal portraiture the subject frequently holds a single flower in its attitude of veneration, an allusion to grandeur.

£15,000-20,000
£21,901-29,200

LONDON, 28 MAY 2008 • 511
A 18-BORE SILVER-MOUNTED FLINTLOCK FOWLING PIECE
FROM THE PERSONAL ARMOURY OF TIPU SULTAN, BY SAYYID
MA'SUM, THE ROYAL WORKSHOP SERINGAPATAM, DATED
MAWLUD YEAR 1221 (1792-93)

with sightheld slightly swamped barrel formed with a narrow full-length
sighting flat chiselled with a decorative scroll at the base, decorated
with a tiger in silver koftgari towards the muzzle, with finely inlaid
sprays of silver foliage enriched with gold flowers over the top and
along the sides of the breach, incorporating in gold the maker’s
signature, the date and place of manufacture and a ‘Haydar’
talismoric square, with pairs of silver antelopes pursued by a tiger
along the sides, a gold platinian spray filled with pious inscriptions and
supporting the tiger mask cypher of Tipu Sultan, a quatrain engraved
and gilt over the lower end of the sighting flat, and with a ‘Haydar’
control mark and the vent each lined in gold, plain breech tang, plain
lock with the maker’s signature, place and date of manufacture and a
‘Haydar’ magic square all inlaid in gold, fitted with safety-catch and
buburu-shaped cock, the latter with tiger’s head jaws chiseled in the
round, figured walnut full stock finely carved with plantain mouldings
in low relief about the triggerguard and ramrod-pipes, a palm
moulding incorporating a pair of carved trailing bun-horn filled with inlaid
horn about the breech tang, the butt cut with a single contour flute
issuant from a palm moulding at the front of the comb, the latter also
involving a further pair of carved horn-filled bun-horn silver mounts
cast in low relief, comprising butt-plate decorated with an antelopes
devoured by a tiger, trigger-guard with plantain spray final and struck
with ‘Haydar’ control marks, buburu-shaped side-plate also struck with
‘Haydar’ mark, small ramrod-pipes, six buburu-shaped escutcheons for
the barrel-bolts, oval escutcheon cast with the tiger mask cypher of
Tipu Sultan in low relief, and silver fore-end cap, and retaining its
original sling-swivels and ramrod
Barrel 96.2cm.

EXHIBITED
The National Army Museum, Chelsea

LITERATURE
Robin Wriggins, op.cit., 1982, TR7 p.57

INSCRIPTIONS
On the barrel: asadullah al-ghafao
“The Lion of God is Triumphant”

[Inscription in Persian]

“[Royal court workshop] or His Highness’s workshop”,

[tongue in nose khowarw-e herd
ko bashad baari se aaszian than-ye u
zawan sar ne khowarw-e khowarw e badeh
badaf gerded agar pishtak-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”,

On the barrel, and repeated on the lock: place of manufacture Patan,
and maker’s name Sayyid Ma’sum, dated in the Mawlud year
1221/1792-93.

The control marks “Haydar” in gold and silver and the letter ‘h’

The talismoric square with the letter’s H/Y/D/R for “Haydar”

On the top in mirror form creating a tiger-face: asadullah al-ghafao “The
Lion of God is Triumphant”

£15,000-20,000
€21,900-29,200