

The Morris Collection

Catalog no.

Description

C145

Bronze Eprouvette Mortar on Integral Base

Markings: none

Measurements: Base: $6 \frac{1}{8} \times 4 \frac{3}{4}$ in.
Barrel length: $4 \frac{1}{2}$ in.
Bore: $1 \frac{27}{64}$ in.

This is a rare eprouvette, or powder testing mortar. It was used to fire an exactly -dimensioned and weighed ball with a precisely weighed charge of the powder to be tested. It was thought at the time that the distance the ball was projected was a measure of the power of the powder, and thus of its quality, and powder has to pass this test to be accepted for government service.

The piece has an integrally-cast square base, and a large, conspicuous reinforce near the base. It is full-bore to the vent (no chamber.) There are score-marks inside of, and parallel to, the bore, indicating a history of firing shot. It has a plain vent pan. The muzzle ring is of an unusual shape, being quarter-round to the front and "cavetto" to the rear.

Eprouvette mortars are described in reference ____.