

The Morris Collection

Catalog no.

Description

C135

Presentation Model of 15-inch Rodman Gun, dated 1864

Markings: Muzzle: " No. 4 50000 LBS T.J.R. •
FORT PITT PA. 1864 "

Left trunnion: 15 IN.

Measurements: Length, overall $33\frac{1}{2}$ in.
Barrel length: $18\frac{1}{2}$ in.
Bore dia: $1\frac{1}{2}$ in.

Fine presentation model machined and marked just as a full-sized Rodman seacoast gun of Civil War vintage would be. This piece was apparently actually made at Fort Pitt Foundry, in Pittsburgh, where the full sized guns were made. The initials T.J.R. are those of General Thomas J. Rodman, designer of the weapon and Army Chief of Ordnance, whose initials appear on many full sized pieces which he inspected. The registry number "4" indicates it was one of the first made, probably of a small lot of perhaps ten made for presentation to senior government officials. The piece is vented and could be fired as a salute gun. It is mounted on the correct type iron carriage. An old wooden tompion is provided to plug the muzzle.

C136

Cast Iron Swivel Gun marked HF, ca. 1750

Markings: "HF" underneath

Measurements: Barrel length: $21\frac{1}{2}$ in.
Bore dia: $1\frac{1}{2}$ in.

A typical small swivel gun of the type used aboard either merchant or naval ships for sweeping the decks of an opposing vessel or repelling boarders. The marking "HF" could indicate that the piece was cast at the Hope Furnace, which was in operation in colonial Rhode Island. The swivel yoke attached to the trunnions has a threaded post, apparently for mounting into a metal bracket. The threading is unusual.