

The Morris Collection

Catalog no.

Description

C116

French Bronze 15CM Mountain Mortar, Gomer Style, 1846

Markings: Chase: Coat of Arms of King Louis Philippe
over the letter "M" in script.

Over the arms are the numerals: 5
17

Below the letter "M" is the
numeral 5.

Left trunnion: N. 27 (registry no.)

Right trunnion: 70 K. (weight in kilos)

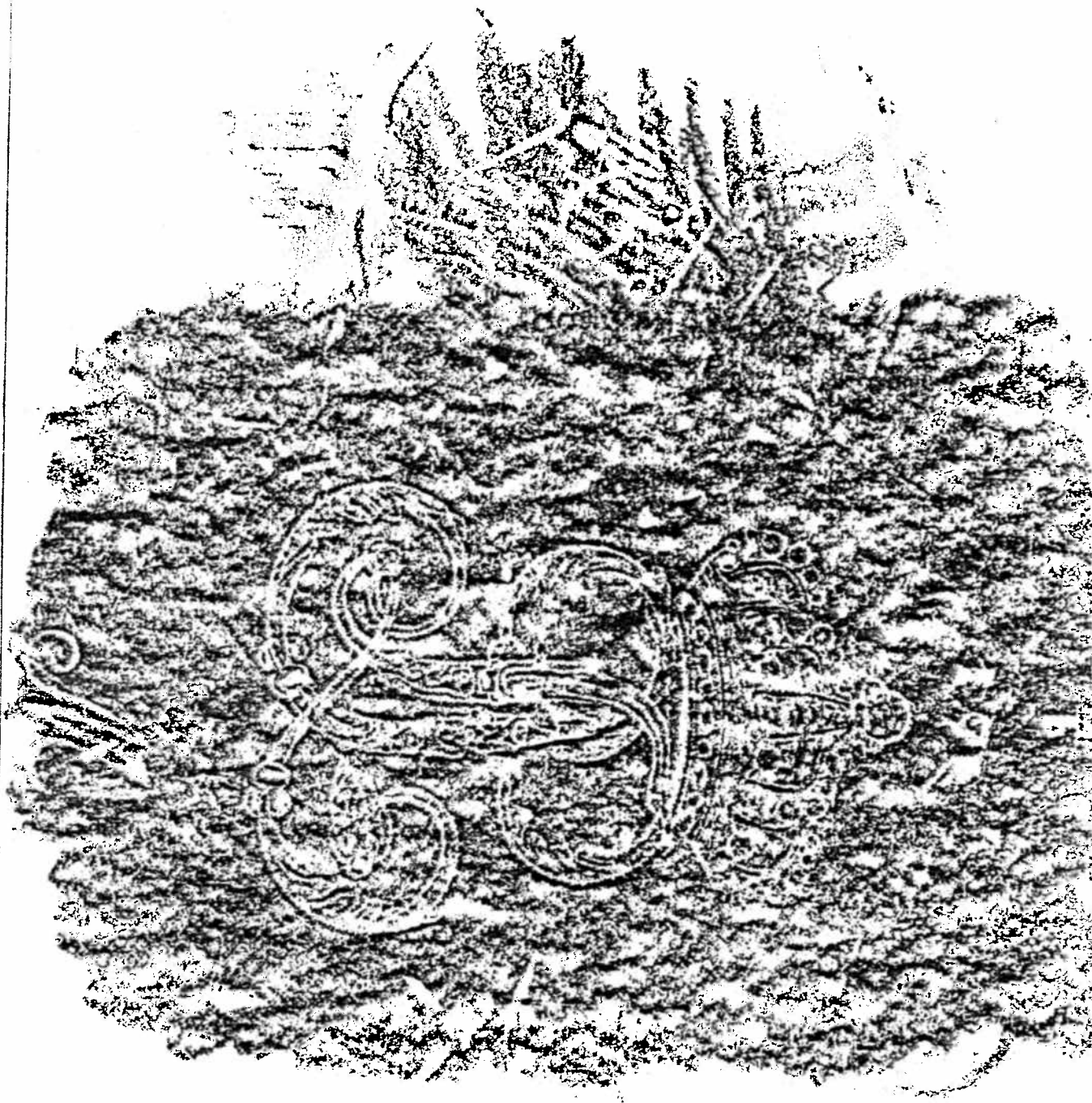
Basing: "DOUAI 11 JUILL. 1846" (arsenal and
date)

Measurements: Barrel length: 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.

This interesting mortar is of the "Gomer" type, and is in the characteristic shape of a truncated cone joined to a cylinder. The "Gomer" chamber is in the shape of a truncated cone, unlike the cylindrical chambers of most mortars. There is a single transverse lifting handle of bronze atop the barrel. The original oak carriage has four iron rings at the corners, through which handspikes are placed for carrying the piece. The above features are described in a fine old book, also in the collection, namely: Instruction D'Artillerie, by Par M. Thiroux, Chez Leneveu, Paris, 1842.

On vient d'adopter un petit mortier à la Gomer, du calibre de 15 c., monté sur un affût consistant en deux porte-tourillons en fonte fixés sur un plateau en bois garni de quatre anneaux dans lesquels s'engagent deux leviers qui permettent à deux hommes de porter la bouche à feu à l'endroit où elle doit être employée. (p. 215)

Plate XI of the book contains a drawing of the mortar, showing reinforcing struts on the trunnions, which are not present on this piece. Nor are these struts present on the only other known example of this type, which is at the Tower of London. (see reference G). These mortars were used in the Crimean War, and this particular mortar shows evidence of excessive firing, in that the trunnions^{are} bent forward slightly, and the bore has been worn so as to be oval by $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.



C116

1961