

The Morris Collection

Catalog no.

Description

C137

Official Royal Ordnance Board Model of 13 in. Mortar
by Lewis Gaschlin, dated 1778

Markings: Breech: "12 $\frac{1}{4}$ "
Right trunnion: "13
INCH"
Transom of bed: "WEIGHT
11 POUND"

Right side of bed: "L: ^{wis.} G: ^{lin.} FECIT
1778 "

Measurements: Length overall: 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.
Width: (excluding maneuvering
axles): 5 $\frac{1}{16}$ in.
Length of bed: 10 $\frac{7}{8}$ in.
Barrel length: 7 $\frac{3}{16}$ in.
Bore: 2 $\frac{1}{8}$ in.

This official model was made by Lewis Gaschlin in 1778. At the time he was employed as model maker at the Royal Brass Foundry at Woolwich, England. Gaschlin was of Swiss descent, a close relative of the past Master Founder at Woolwich, the famous Andrew Schalch.

The model itself was similar to a patent model. A new ordnance design at that time was required to be produced as a working model prior to full-size production. The piece is a marvel of painstaking craftsmanship, perfect in every detail down to the fine engraving on the vent pan and dolphins. The bronze barrel is mounted on a bronze mortar bed. All fittings on the bed are of iron, which is slightly rusted. Capsquares are bronze. The front transom, which supports the barrel at 45 degrees, is of walnut. There are four maneuvering axles at the corners of the bed, rings on either side as well as on either side of the wooden transom, and two smaller rings at the front of the bed. Two iron rings mounted above one another form the shell hoisting davit mounting. The davit itself is missing. The model has a deep cylindrical chamber, and is vented.

Despite its small size, this mortar model is one of the more unique and important pieces in the Collection. Reference "E" describes the Royal Brass Foundry and mentions Lewis Gaschlin, whose son, also Lewis, made the model.

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Catalog no.

Description

C138

English Mortar Model attributed to Lewis Gaschlin
ca. 1778

Markings: none

Measurements: Lengths: Overall: $9\frac{1}{4}$ in.

Bed: $8\frac{1}{4}$ in.

Barrel: $5\frac{1}{2}$ in.

Width of bed (excluding axles): 4 in.

Bore dia: $1\frac{5}{8}$ in.

This mortar model is identical in design, construction, and materials to no. C137, with minor exceptions. There is no provision for a shell davit, nor are there dolphins on the barrel. There is no engraving or marking on the piece. There are no rings at the sides of the piece, and the front transom "rings" are nearly square. Assuming that this piece is made to 1/6 scale as was no. C137, it would be a 10-inch mortar. Again, no expense of labor or material has been spared in the construction of this model. It has a fine patina on all parts. The two bronze capsquares are missing.

The model has so many unique features in common with no. C137 that it is safe to assume it was made by the same man, or at least at the same time. The two models seem to be models for a new class or family of mortars with this elaborate bronze bed, which is the more distinctive feature of the pieces. Again, this as a very important piece, size notwithstanding. Reference "E" pertains.