

The Morris Collection

Catalog no.

Description

C95

Grusonwerk ^{53mm} ~~50MM~~ Rapid-Fire Breechloading Cannon, 1892

Barrel Markings: Left trunnion: "No. 1024 170 Kg"

Right trunnion: "1891
Grusonwerk"

Measurements: Bore dia: 50MM

Barrel length: 63½ in.

Breech marking: D.R.P. N°. 41001

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Grusonwerk*
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This piece is unique in several ways. Although made by Gruson in Germany, markings are in Spanish. A selector switch on the breech (vertical sliding wedge type) operating lever is marked on one side "Firo Rapido." This permits the crew to either fire with the lanyard in conventional fashion, or, with "Firo Rapido" turned up, to allow the piece to discharge automatically as the breech closed. Fixed, center-fire primed ammunition was used.

Although recoil systems as we know them were not developed by 1892, the carriage is provided with a lever which engages drum-type brakes inside the large brass wheel hubs. This limits the movement of the carriage in recoil. A sliding post rear sight elevates by rack and pinion, and has a windage adjustment as well.

The carriage is of riveted steel construction, with bronze trunnion supports and capsquares. Wheels are dished and consist of steel tires and hardwood fellies and spokes, each of which is bolted into the hub. One of the wheels is missing most of the wood parts. The other is intact. Otherwise, the piece is fully operable, and has fired salute rounds recently.

Artillery pieces by Gruson are rare. The firm was known for its armor plate and cupuola turrets for land fortifications.