

Basic Detail Report



Sword-Guard

Date

1600-1699

Medium

Ivory

Description

Sword cross-guard of carved ivory. There is a hole in the centre for inserting the hilt, and a central hemispheric plate projects out on one side. It is carved with a small dog-like animal, set in an oval, with curling leaf decorative edge. It is probably a hunting dog, indicating that it was carved in West Africa for a European nobleman's hunting sword. This side projection is known as a chappe, and when the sword is sheathed it sits over the scabbard to keep out the elements. The quillons are in the shape of two animal heads with open mouths. It would have been produced for trade in Europe.

Dimensions

Object/Work: 45 x 142 x 44 mm