

Basic Detail Report



Title Presentation Sword and Scabbard

Date 1862

Primary Maker Colonel George Perkins Bissell

Medium Steel, brass, shagreen (sharkskin), leather, gold bullion fabric

Description Single edged, slightly curved blade with a false edge extending 7 1/2 inches from the point. There are two fullers on the blade, the first fuller is wide and shallow and runs from the ricasso to 7 inches from the point. The second fuller is deep and narrow and runs from 4 inches from the hilt to 8 inches from the point. Both sides of the blade are etched, with the obverse side etched with (top to bottom); Vines surrounding a lined design, war trophies, and eagle sitting on olive branches (sideways along blade) and holding a banner in its beak which says "E / PLURIBUS / UNUM", a banner with "UNION FOREVER" followed by more war trophies and floral designs, with "COLLINS & CO / HARTFORD / CONN." etched at the bottom. The reverse side is etched with (top to bottom); vines surrounding a lined design, war trophies, "Geo. P. Bissel" (in old English) along a large scrolling banner, "U.S." surrounded by ivy, war trophies, more scrolling designs, and on the ricasso is "COLLINS & CO / HARTFORD / CONN / 1862." There

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is a leather washer between the ricasso and the hilt. The hilt of the sword is cast brass and features a large half basket style pierced guard on the obverse side, decorated in a floral design with the letters "U.S." The reverse side of the guard is slightly turned up, and the quillon terminates at the back of the blade in a scrolling disc finial. The knuckle bow is pierced at the bottom for a sword knot, and connects to the pommel, which is of the Phrygian helmet pattern cast with leaf designs along the outside edges. The sword knot itself is made of a gold bullion rope with an acorn type tassel on the end. The handle is grooved wood wrapped in shagreen (sharkskin), and then wrapped with coiled wire between the grooves. The scabbard is steel with brass bands and carrying rings. Both bands are pierced with scrolling designs at the top and bottom, and have a singular carrying ring on the back side. The tip has a similar design along the sides, with the center being engraved with a liberty pole and cap with war trophies at the base, and the drag is made of a scrolling floral design along each side. Engraved on a gilded plaque between the two bands is "Presented to / Col George P Bissel (in old English) / BY HIS FRIENDS / A tribute to his frank & generous disposition / & his devotion to human rights." Engraved on the scabbard on the reverse side, between the same two bands is "THIS SWORD WAS WORN / BY/ COL. GEO. P. BISSEL. / 25th Reg. CONN. VOLS. / at the Battle of IRISH BEND and through / the campaign of the Teche, La. 1863. / [Illegible] wars, it is dedicated from / [bottom line is completely illegible]." The wooden case that the sword was presented in is inlaid on the top with a brass plate that is engraved "Col. Geo P Bissel. / 25th Regt Conn Vols."

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Dimensions Primary Dimensions (overall length): 37 1/2in. (95.3cm) Other (blade length): 32in. (81.3cm)