

Basic Detail Report



Title Presentation Sword and Scabbard

Date 1861

Primary Maker Captain Thomas R. Mead

Medium Steel, gilded brass, sliver, gold bullion fabric

Description Slightly curved, single edged sword with two fullers and a false edge

extending 10 inches from the point. The first fuller is wide and shallow and

begins at the ricasso and goes 9 1/2 inches from the point. The second fuller is

deep and narrow and begins 5 inches from the hilt and extends to 11 inches

short of the point. The blade is very elaborately etched on both sides, with the

obverse side etched with (top to bottom): floral sprays, curling vines and leaves,

war trophies of flags and a knight's helmet, a lions head among scrolling

designs, scrolling designs with vines, a soldier with moustache and wearing a

long frock coat and cape, and leaning on a sword. The reverse side of the blade

is etched with (top to bottom): floral sprays, a helmet and sword interwoven

among scrolling floral designs, "U.S.", more scrolling floral designs, Lady Liberty

wearing a plumed helmet and holding a spear, and below her feet is etched:

"TIFFANY & Co. / NEW. YORK." The ricasso is stamped on both sides, on obverse

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with "1861" an on the reverse with "COLLINS & CO / HARTFORD / CONN." The

hilt is gilded brass with a very wide back on the guard (approx. 2") and a long

cylindrical scrolling finial with floral design in the center. The guard is pierced

with the letters "U.S.", interwoven among floral designs and vines, on the

obverse side. The knuckle bow is pierced for a sword knot at its base and

connects to the pommel, which is of an alternative Phrygian helmet style. The

pommel features wreath decoration along the outside that meet along each side

to form a bow, and a shield on the back side with a single five pointed star above

it. The handle is hollow silver with spiraling grooves that are then wrapped in a

silver coiled wire. Attached to the knuckle bow is a gold tape fabric sword knot

with gold tassel made of gold bullion wire. The scabbard is japanned black

metal with gilded brass bands and drag. The top band has a single carrying ring

and features an engraved monogram of the letters "US" above the carrying ring

band which is engraved with a floral design. The reverse side of the top band is

engraved (above carrying ring band) with: "Lieut. Thos. R. Mead. / from / Co. G.

10th CONN. VOLrs. / A token of their regard for / him as an officer & a man / For

gallant conduct at Roanoke & Newburn." Stamped above that is "TIFFANY &

CO". The middle band features the same floral design, while the tip is engraved

with an eagle and shield surrounded by scrolling designs on the front, and a

shield with thirteen stars on the back. The drag features a symmetrical scrolling

design.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (overall length): 38in. (96.5cm) Other (blade

length): 32in. (81.3cm)