



Head of a Partisan for the Guard of Henri III of France (r. 1574-89)

Date
1588

Primary Maker
French

Medium
steel

Description
Long, triangular double-edged blade of gently lozenge section over much of length, becoming flat to spatulate point. Blade 28 15/16" long, 5 1/4" wide; socket 7 1/16" long. Blade waisted at about 1/4 of length, then tapers in a series of curves to point. Base of blade drawn out in lobes & pierced with comma-shaped & circular fretting. Tang carved as acanthus leaf. Lower 1/3 of blade etched with circular medallions with human portrait busts on hatched ground & rectangular compartments having a cat-like creature & scrolling tendrils. Sides have guilloché framing. Between blade & socket is ornate crossbar with addorsed, curving & scrolled arms, 4 with dragon-head terminals, lower 2 having sharply pointed tongue. Elements etched with guilloché. Long, tubular socket with molded ferrules at ends. Extending down front & rear faces are straps with guilloché.

Dimensions
91.4 x 21.8 x 5.1 cm (36 x 8 9/16 x 2 in.); 3 lb. 12 oz.