

Basic Detail Report



Sword of Justice

Date

about 1700–1735

Primary Maker

German

Medium

steel with etching and gilding, bronze with traces of gilding, wood, fish skin, textile

Description

Long, broad double-edge straight blade with bluntly rounded point. Reinforced at shoulders. Faces with wide medial fuller in forte. Etched with script German text. Both faces of third of blade nearest hilt are etched and gilded with symmetrical strapwork & foliation on hatched ground. At end of decoration is etched figure of Justice with sword & scales, wearing a bilevel, tiered dress having elbow-length sleeves, & standing on footed plinth. At shoulders of blade is a scalloped washer of red felt. Cruciform hilt of gilded bronze, with presumably wooden grip covered in fish skin, tapering to pommel. At ends of grip are bronze bands decorated with engraved lines. Crossguard reeded at center, then 2 stage--square, then octagonal--having turned terminals. Pommel fig-shaped, with turned base. Main part of body octagonally faceted and decorated with leafy & scrolling pointillé motifs. Top fluted, with flared, flat button that reveals flattened terminal of tang and copper shim. The sword has been disassembled and reassembled, as indicated by the irregularities around the peened tang at the button.

Dimensions

102 × 20 × 3.5 cm (40 3/16 × 7 7/8 × 1 3/8 in.) 4 lb, 10 oz (weight)