

SWISS YATAGHAN BAYONET FOR AN ITALIAN VETTERLI POLICE CARBINE by Dr. Jim Maddox



Swiss-Made Vetterli Carbine & Bayonet

My best acquisition at the 2009 Baltimore Antique Arms Show was a spectacular yataghan bayonet for a Swiss-made M1870 Vetterli Carbine intended for trials and eventual sale to the Italian Police. The rare single shot carbine is bolt-operated and chambered in 10.4mm Italian centerfire. A catalog reference from a previous Swiss auction indicates that 21 of these carbines were known to have been made for evaluation. This example is numbered "13". The receiver is stamped "SOC.IND. SUISSE" above a Swiss Cross, and "SYST. VETTERLIN" below.

The bayonet alone is a collector's prize. It combines the distinctive hilt of an Italian M1870 Vetterli with a blade and scabbard resembling those of the Swiss M1864 Sharpshooter's yataghan bayonet. The slim, fullered blade is marked

"GEBR. WEYERSBERG/SOLINGEN" on the reverse ricasso. Unlike the usual Italian components of steel, the pommel and hilt base of this bayonet are brass. The grips are of rosewood instead of horn. The T-mortise, short flat spring, and hooked quillon are identical to the standard Italian M1870 Italian hilt. The obverse guard is serial numbered "1". The scabbard is black leather with brass mounts.

Dimensions:
Overall Length 655mm
Blade Length 526mm
Muzzle Ring 16mm

Note the photo which compares the Italian Vetterli and Swiss Sharpshooter bayonets to the trials yataghan bayonet.



Yataghan Bayonet for Vetterli Carbine



Closeup of Mounted Yataghan Bayonet

All of the various models of Italian Vetterli bayonets will fit this Swiss-made carbine. Note in the close-up photo of the yataghan bayonet mounted on the carbine barrel that there are two stops to limit the backwards travel of the bayonet. There is the usual lug that fits into the T-mortise, and a 2nd lug near the sight that provides a positive stop at the muzzle ring.



Reverse Hilt of Yataghan Bayonet



Comparison to Swiss & Italian Bayonets