



# CAUCASIAN FLINTLOCK MUSKET

This is a Caucasian Miquelet stocked in the Persian style with a Persian barrel. The Persian barrel is made of a beautiful pattern-welded steel and made by Mostafā. The muzzle and the base of the barrel are gold-overlaid in floral and vegetal design. A Persian gun and barrel maker named Mostafā made a number of barrels for different Persian rifles and pistols that are kept in the Military Museum of Tehran. These include the barrels for three flintlock muskets attributed to the Afsharid to the Qajar period (see Moshtagh Khorasani, 2009f:25, table 1), a barrel for a percussion cap musket from the Qajar period (see Moshtagh Khorasani, 2009g:22, table 1) and barrels made for two percussion cap pistols from the Qajar period (see Moshtagh Khorasani, 2009h:40, see table 2). The flintlock is in style of Miquelet lock made locally by a Caucasian flintlock maker named Mohammad. The inscriptions on the flintlock also reveal that the name of the owner was Shahvani. The flintlock is made of steel and gold-overlaid in floral and vegetal design. For similar Persian flintlocks on Persian muskets see Moshtagh Khorasani (2009f:23). The flintlock is surrounded by silver plate decorated with niello in vegetal design and also partially gilded. The steel trigger is decorated with gold-overlaid floral design. The barrel has three barrel straps (cappucines) made of pierced silver. The stock is made of highly striped wood with a butt covered with a silver plate decorated with niello in floral and vegetal designs. The steel butt strap support goes over the butt and is attached to the stock via four rivets. The steel rod is decorated with gold-overlaid floral design. The steel rod has rivet heads in shape of flowers. The steel ramrod is partially decorated with gold-overlaid floral design. The place of the ramrod on the gun is covered with a plate of chiselled silver decorated with niello and partially gilded. The places for passing the gun belt are also decorated and inserted with chased silver plates decorated with niello and partially gilded.

It's interesting that the Russian Cossacks also were rather fond of this sort of design of stock and lock in their own weapons, and that the Russian military later even made up carbines and rifles in this style for issue to their Cossack units. For other Caucasian rifles in this style see Ricketts and Missillier (1988:69, figures 106 and 107) and Tirri (2003:179-180; figures 121A, 121B and 121C). For Caucasian flintlocks see Lebedynsky (1990:95-97).

**Inscriptions:** The flintlock is chiselled and gilded on the lower plate with the inscriptions:

*Amal-e Mohammad sāheb Šahvani* "The work of Mohammad the owner Shahvani".

The barrel has a punched and chiselled with the inscriptions:

*Amal-e Hāji Mostafā* "The work of Hāji Mostafā".

عمل محمد صاحب شهونی

عمل حاجی مصطفی



TYPE CAUCASIAN FLINTLOCK MUSKET  
ORIGIN CAUCASIA  
PERIOD 19th CENTURY



TOTAL LENGTH 139 cm  
LENGTH OF THE BARREL 102,7 cm  
WEIGHT 3051 grams

