



ALGERIAN FLINTLOCK HOLSTER PISTOL

This is an Algerian flintlock holster pistol decorated with silver mounts and shaped corals set in zig zag design. According to Elgood (1995:74, 76), Algeria was famed in Europe for manufacturing fine guns and the pistols and guns decorated with corals were the most famous and the hallmark of Algiers. The present pistol has a similar design to be either a French, Italian or German flintlock pistol from ca. 1750. The flintlock is an imported European lock. The barrel is made from a beautiful pattern welded steel decorated with silver-overlaying in floral and geometrical design. The end of the stock is covered with a silver plate with a set coral stone. The pistol has its ramrod on its bottom. Ricketts and Missillier (1988:167) explain that arms decorated with coral were manufactured in Turkey in the 17th and 18th centuries and they possibly imported the raw material from Trapani in Sicily and when the supply shortened the gun makers stopped to make this type of guns. As Algeria had its own supply of coral, they continued to make their own arms decorated with corals in the late 18th and the 19th centuries. For similar examples see Elgood (1995:75), Lebedynsky (1992:162-163), and Ricketts and Missillier (1988:49, figure 69; 51, figure 72).



TYPE ALGERIAN FLINTLOCK HOLSTER PISTOL
ORIGIN ALGERIA
PERIOD 1780 C.E.



TOTAL LENGTH 49,5 cm
LENGTH OF THE BARREL 32,6 cm
WEIGHT 1038 grams

