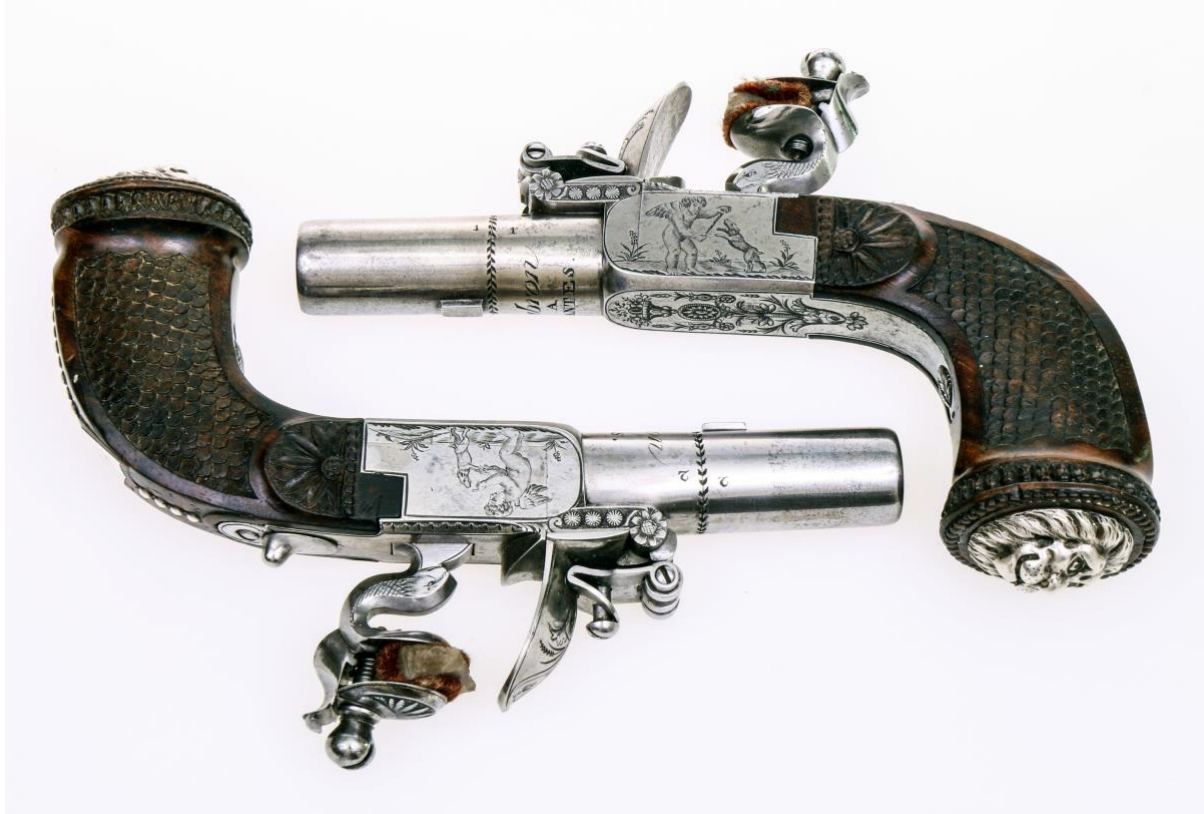


Pair of luxury presentation flintlock pocket pistols by Jean Aubron of Nantes, France (Cat#K)



Interestingly the Victoria and Albert Museum in London has an Aubron rifle which was catalogued in 1955. For 60 years, their notes stated that Aubron was not recorded as a gunmaker and was probably a retailer marketing guns made in St. Étienne.

The Abron family were a well-known family of gunmakers in Clisson, Nantes.

Le “Qui est qui” de l’arme en France records: -

AUBRON Jean – Arquebusier à Nantes (Loire Atlantique) de 1771 à 1818. Vient de Clisson (Loire Atlantique). -D15,

Heer Der Neue Stockel records: -

AUBRON Jean, Nantes, Loire Atlantique/F, *ca 1771-1818. Aus Clisson stammend. Sohn eines Jean Aubron ; Vater des Jules AUBRON. Q

I advised the museum and they have, after sixty years, given Mr. Aubron the recognition he deserves.

From this: -

Aubron is not recorded as a gunmaker and it is probable that he was merely the retailer of a gun made at St. Etienne.

To this: -

Aubron was from a family of gunmakers in Nantes.

Now that we have set the V & A right we can now fully appreciate the skill of Jean Aubron.

Aubron and his family did not work for Napoleon or out of a fancy address in Paris but these pistols are the equal of any Le Page or Boutet.

Everything about these pistols is beautiful, different and skillfully executed.

There is a different unusually playful scene on each of the four lock plates.

1. A naked winged cherub riding what looks like a goat – he doesn't look to happy.
2. Playing with his dog
3. Riding a mythical serpent
4. Throwing a stick for his dog

The pans are deeply chiseled with flowers and a scroll.

The frizzen screw head and tail are very intricately engraved.

The hammer is a highly detailed angry-looking fish.

The top jaw is very highly detailed with leaf ornaments.

The breach and barrel are ringed with leaf decorations.

The pistols are signed *Aubron A Nantes* at the underside of the breach.

The tang, concealed trigger and surround are magnificently engraved in the style typical of French luxury pockets with flowers and vase but these examples are particularly detailed and expertly executed.

The butts are a work of art in themselves; beautiful scalloped fish-scale chequering with complex floral design and vacant silver shield. There are fifteen silver nails along the back of the butt. The pommel is finely sculpted and carries silver wry-looking lion masks.

Very nice pistols which rightly take their place next to Boutet and Le Page.

