

Kris

Southeast Asian Collection

Accession Nr.:	541.1-2 
Type:	weapons and armament; metalwork; carving; ivory carving
Date of production:	17 – 18th (?) century
Place of production:	Java, Madura, Indonesia, Southeast Asia
Materials/Techniques:	steel, wood, ivory, engraved, carved, forged
Dimensions:	length: 39.2 cm width: 7.3 cm
Acquisition:	collection of Ferenc Hopp

A wavy-edged dagger, kris (Indonesian: keris). Its richly carved, distinctive Madurese hilt represents the Tree of Life/Holy Mountain (Indonesian: gunung). The wooden handle guard is the only surviving part of the ancient scabbard. Collected by Ferenc Hopp.

For the Indonesians, the kris is much more than a simple weapon, it is a spectacular and effective expression of Javanese spirituality, a bearer of spiritual power, a symbol of heroism and a status symbol.

