

# Kris

Southeast Asian Collection

Accession Nr.: **58.47.1-2** 

Type: **religious or cult object; weapons and armament; metalwork; carving**

Date of production: **18 – 19th century**

Place of production: **Java, Indonesia, Southeast Asia**

Materials/Technique  
s: **steel, wood, brass, forged, carved, chiselled**

Dimensions: **length: 50 cm  
width: 15. 5 cm**

Straight-edged dagger, forged from steel. The carved hilt of the kris (Indonesian: keris) in question has a characteristic Central Javanese motif. The usual shaft ring is missing at the base of the grip, and the scabbard, similarly to the guard (Indonesian: wranka), is made of wood, covered with brass, decorated with engraved plant motifs.

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

