


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/Techniques:	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.

