

# Kris

## Southeast Asian Collection

Accession Nr.: 63.9.1-3 

Type: bone objects; religious or cult object; weapons and armament; metalwork

Date of production: 18th – early 19th century

Place of production: Madura, Indonesia, Southeast Asia

Materials/Techniques: steel, bone, wood, forged, embossed, carved

Dimensions: length: 54 cm  
width: 14.5 cm

A wavy-edged dagger (Indonesian: keris) with a carved ivory hilt and ornately carved silver-plated wooden scabbard. The embossed scabbard depicts scroll and floral motifs and ends in a demon mask with a frontal design, which almost completely covers the handle guard.

A peculiarity of the Madurai 'donoriko' decoration is that the surface of the hilt, which imitates a bird's head, is covered with meticulously carved vegetation and small animal and human figures - barely visible, since the Islamic religion avoids figurative representation called 'donoriko' style. The bone handle in question contains typical Madurai symbols: winged horses (Si Mega) and dragons and a royal crown.

