

Kris hilt

Southeast Asian Collection

Accession Nr.: 79.36.1 

Type: weapons and armament; metalwork; carving

Date of production: 18 – 19th century

Place of production: Java, Indonesia, Southeast Asia

Materials/Techniques: wood, gold, semi-precious stone, metal, carved, inlaid

Dimensions: height: 9 cm
width: 2.2 cm

Javanese dagger (kris) handle with figural decoration. The carved body may originally have been covered with gold plates. The head shows a monster figure with protruding fangs and bulging eyes. It was part of a sacred object.

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

