



Dagger

Date
1800-1850

Medium
Steel, wood, brass

Description

Malay Kris. The blade is made of watered steel, and the hilt of rich brown wood with brass filigree. The handle is in the shape of an unopened flower bud. The top of the blade is finished with an elaborate free-style scroll and filigree decoration. The scabbard is made of 2 pieces of brown wood, the base terminating with a button made of a nut. The lower part is bound with black plaited human hair and narrow strips of rattan. Kris are characterised by their distinctive wavy blade. These daggers serve both ceremonial and practical purposes and were often thought to possess magical powers.