



Nanban Shishi And Ryu Tsuba



1 200 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Wrought iron

Length : 7,4cm

Description

Over the centuries, many sailors, merchants and colonial dignitaries crossed the oceans to trade with Asian countries. Cross-cultural influence is an interesting aspect of this period of war and trade. The word "Nanban", or also spelled "Namban", can be translated literally as: "Western Barbarian", a term that the Japanese used locally when talking about traders from Europe and other continents. Tsuba (sword guards) are typical Japanese sword equipment. Since the beginning of trade, the influence of different cultures and religions has been mutilated by Japanese examples. Besides being made in their own country, sword guards were often made in Vietnam, China, Korea and even Sri Lanka.

This example: The front: The general contours of

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the tsuba are quite typical, slightly oval and the "nakago-ana" is decorated with a cartouche. The outlines of the cartouche are gold, notably the "kozuka hitsu ana" and the "kogai hitsu ana". The bottom represents a "Tera" (?), a Japanese temple. The background features an "Arabesque" or "Karakusa" pattern in chiseled iron, which represents prosperity and longevity. The back: Decorated with a fierce "Shishi" (temple dog) which is an auspicious Buddhist symbol of protection against evil. The sides feature two downward-facing "Shishi", a double sign of protection against evil. The side is decorated with a "Raimon" motif chiseled all around the edge.

Condition: Good condition, the gold has suffered some losses. Dimensions: Length: 7.4 cm Width: 7 cm Thickness: 5 mm Weight: 122gr.