



PROANTIC

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Knife/dagger From The 'mbuun/dzing' Tribe Of The Congo--africa--early 20th Century



400 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Wrought iron

Length : 20 cm

Width : 2 cm

Description

An elegant traditional knife attributed to the Mbuun (Ambuun) or Dzing peoples, who live in the Kwilu region in the southwestern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This type of knife represents one of the most refined forms of metalwork and body ornamentation. The forged iron blade, elongated and slightly curved in profile, has a balanced silhouette that tapers to a pointed tip. Near the handle, it is adorned with a diamond-shaped motif engraved with a punch--a decorative detail characteristic of certain regional productions. The handle, which is particularly striking, is entirely wrapped in fine coils of copper and brass wire, forming a rhythmic pattern of regular ridges. Its sculptural form, marked by successive bulges, lends the object great elegance while ensuring an excellent grip. The end of the

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handle is capped by a carefully crafted rounded pommel. Beyond its utilitarian function, this type of knife also served as a marker of social status and could be used in exchanges of prestige or accompany its owner during important ceremonies. The richness of its metallic decoration attests to the symbolic role of copper and brass, materials highly valued in Central African societies.