

Chapter 10
The Peninsula of Malacca



The Peninsula of Malacca

The peninsula of Malacca, named after *the Town Malacca*, the capital of *the Malaccan Sultanate*, is culturally closely related to Sumatra. Together with North Sumatra it was the area that first converted to *Islam*. It played a central part in the commerce during the 15th-17th centuries, because Malacca was able to control *the Strait of Malacca*, which was the western entrance to Indonesia. The founder of the town was *Prince Paramesvara of Palembang*. He revolted against *Majapahit*, which *Palembang* at the time was subordinated to. But when *the King of Majapahit* sent an army against him he was forced to flee. With a little band of followers he fled to Malacca, where he founded *the Malacca town*. Because of the hegemony of *Thailand* of the Peninsula of Malacca *the Emperor of China* found it opportune to support Malacca to limit the influence of *Thailand* on the area. So *Paramesvara* under the protection of *the Ming Emperor* established himself in Malacca. In 1414 *Pamesvara* married a daughter of *the Islamic Prince Pasais* and converted to *Islam*. In 1415 he instituted an *Islamic code*. Among other things it included a law saying that it was only allowed people connected with the palace to wear krisses with a golden hilt - to break the law resulted in confiscation of the kris¹. So in Malacca the kris had become a manifestation of your status. Malacca became not only an important commercial center, but a center of the spreading of *Islam*. They went so to say hand in hand. The consequence was that the Northern Javanese commercial towns were converted to *Islam* and that they finely put an end to *the Hindu Majapahit kingdom*. Through the 15th century the influence of Malacca grew rapidly. It conquered almost all of the Peninsula of Malacca, and *Indragiri, Siak and Kampar* in Sumatra (the *Riau* area) as well. In 1511 Malacca was conquered by the *Portugese* and the escaped sultan fled to *Bitang* and from there tried in vain to fight the *Portugese*. During the 1520's the son of the sultan succeeded in founding *the sultanate Johor* on the southern point of the Peninsula of Malacca. *Johor* was like the *Portugese* in an eternal fight with *Aceh*. Therefore *Johor* made an alliance with the *Portugese* in Malacca against *Aceh*. The issue was the fight for the commercial supremacy. In the end of the 16th century the *Dutch* began to interfere. In the beginning they were well received in most places as they did not, like the *Portugese*, mix religion with commerce and were seen as a welcome counterbalance to the dominans of the *Portugese*. In 1606 the *Dutch* made an alliance with *Johor* to conquer Malacca. But in spite of repeated attempts with different alliances, among others with *Aceh*, the *Dutch* did not succeed in conquering Malacca from the *Portugese* until 1640. Afterwards Malacca lost its influence in favour of *Banten* and later *Batavia (Jakarta)*.

The Buginese Influence and the Influence of Sumatra on the Krisses from the Peninsula of Malacca.

The area had for a long time, because of its many commercial opportunities and political unrest, attracted *Buginese* merchants and pirates in a great number. The influence of the *Buginese* greatly increased by the alliance in 1699 between five *Bugis Opu* or Princes, their followers and the deposed Sultan of *Johor*. Ultimately this group was able to depose a *Minangkabau* pretender to the throne of *Johor* named *Raja Kecik* and install the Malay Sultan *Abdul Jalil* as ruler of *Johor* and the *Riau-Lingga* archipelago. In the years following the *Bugis* extended their influence over many of the states of the Peninsula as well as in *Sumatra* and Western *Kalimantan*². Because of that a great part of the Malacca krisses

¹ A.H. Hill: *Keris and Other Malay Weapons* Singapore 1956, p 48-49.

² *Peninsular Kerises* (on the internet) by David Henkel.

are *Buginese* influenced with *Kerdas=Pangulu* hilts, blades in Buginese style and *Tanggah* sheaths. The other strong influence on the Malacca kris came from the neighbour *Sumatra*. Therefore a great number has a *Jawa Demam* hilt and a crescent shaped type of sheath (*Gambar-Tanggala*). The consequence of these influences and mixtures was that it might be difficult to differentiate between krisses from *Celebes*, *Sumatra* and *Malacca*. Especially krisses from the southern part of the Peninsula of Malacca are difficult to differentiate from the krisses from Central Sumatra around the Malacca Strait. However, between the krisses from the southern part and the northern part of the Peninsula there are some differences. Also some of the krisses from *Terengganu* seems to have some special characteristics that differentiate them from other krisses from the Peninsula of Malacca. They have the *Pipit Teleng* type of hilt and may have smooth and shining blades without *Pamor*. Another popular style is the *Keris Carita* which has fullers running the length of the blade. These are similar to the well known *Keris Malela* however *Malela* blades generally have deeper fullers (according to Mr David Henkel - Fig 194 a, 197 c). In this area you may even find a special Malay Moro *Sundang* type of kris (See Fig 197 d)³.

Hilts

The difference between the northern type of *Kerdas/Pangulu* hilt (Fig 185 a) and the southern type (Fig 185 b) is that the northern type is more upright than the southern type, which has a more downwards bent. Further the underside of the head of the southern type seems to be bulging outwards, while the underside of the northern type is curved inwards and it has a rounder forehead than the northern type. The crest (the top of a stylized piece of *Garuda Mungkur* jewellery) on the top of the head of the northern type is often higher than the crest on the southern type, which includes the northern *Jawa Demam* type⁴, too (Fig 185 c).



a)



b)



c)

Fig 185 a, b, c)

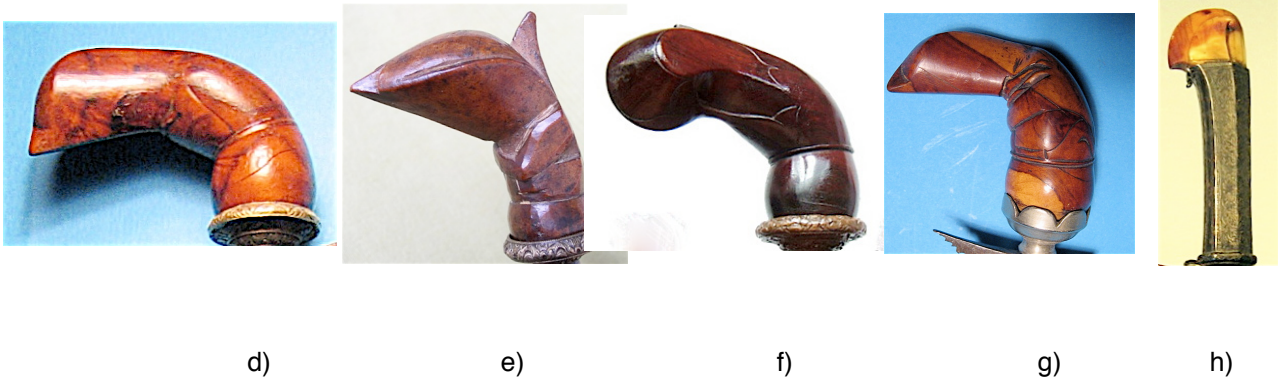
a) Northern type of *Kerdas/Pangulu* hilt. Pattani

b) Southern type of *Kerdas/Pangulu* hilt. Riau style.

c) Northern type of *Jawa Demam* called *Perkaka Pattani*. Pattani.

³ The Moros had in the end of the 18th century built a fort on the southern point of *Sumatra* (see chapter 12 p 2).

⁴ The name is said to come from a story about the Melaka hero *Hang Tuah* in which he was attacked by a *Javanese* who feigned sickness or fever until *Hang Tuah* came within striking distance. Needless to say the assailant was quickly dispatched by our hero. Peninsular Kerises (on the internet) by David Henkel. The other version of the story - see chapter 9,1 p 12 note 10.



- d) *Kerdas/Pangulu* type from the northern part of the Peninsula of Malacca.
 e) *Jawa Demam* type from the southern part of the Peninsula of Malacca
 f) *Riau Kerdas/Pangulu* type from Selangor or Johor
 g) A *Jawa Demam* hilt also called *Pipit Teleng* or *Anak Ayam Sejuk* ⁵ from Terengganu.
 h) *Sundang* hilt from *Terengganu*?

Mendak/Pendokok

In Malaysia the *Mendak* is called *Pendokok*. It is often a *Buginese* type with either a flat cup or rounded cup on a short stem decorated with floral design. It may have a lobed rim and openwork (Fig 186 b). Fig 186 a represents a type of *Mendak/Pendokok* that is often found in Sumatra as well as in the Peninsula of Malacca.



Fig 186 a) *Buginese Mendak/Pendokok* type in gilt brass.



Fig 186 b) *Mendak/Pendokok* in pewter. Terengganu.

⁵ *Pipit Teleng* means sparrow with its head at an angle (with a broken neck) and *Anak Yam Sejuk* means freezing chicken.

The Blades

Most of the blades of the Peninsula of Malacca are greatly influenced by the *Buginese* and may have a bit of a crude shape like the blades from the central part of Sumatra at the Malacca Strait. Usually they have a broad *Pamor* layering in the middle of the blade in Buginese style and they often have a *Gandik*, a *Telale Gajah*, a *Lambe Gajah*, *Djalu Memet* and *Greneng*. But the *Pejetan* may be rather flat and *Tikel Alis* and the *Sogokan*, may be missing. There are a number of *Pamor*-types (usually *Kulit Semangka*, *Wengkon*, *Ujung Gunung* and sometimes *Batu Lapak*), which mainly are a little crudely elaborated. Their surface is mostly felt rough. Some of the blades from *Terengganu* may, however, differentiate by being smooth, shining and without *Pamor*. Their shapes (*Dapor*) indicate Javanese influence (Fig 187 c). A special type of blade called *Pandai Saras* (probably the name of the smith who came up with this type of blade?) is from *Pattani*. It is a long, slim and elegant blade, with and without *lok* and mostly without *Pamor* or with *Pamor Tiban*, (see Fig 187 d and p 14) .



Fig 187 a, b, c, d)

- a) Blade in Buginese style from the southern part of the Peninsula.
- b) Blade in Buginese style from Terengganu.
- c) Dapor Naga Pengantan blade from Terengganu
- d) Pandai Saras type of blade from Pattani.

The sheaths

The sheaths from the Peninsula of Malacca, especially the southern types, may be very difficult to differentiate from the sheath from the *Jambi* and *Riau* areas in Central Sumatra at the Malacca Strait. They are mainly of the *Tanggah* type, but also the (*Gambar-Tanggala*) is found (see chapter 9,1 Fig 145 g). The *Tanggah* sheath from *Pattani* seems to differentiate from the other types by having a rather narrow and sturdy *Gambar* (*Sampir*) with the ends of the top pointing outwards. The *Gandar* is rather long and slim and a bit more rounded and solid than the *Gandar* of the other types. The pattern of the *Kemuning* wood of the *Gambar/Sampir* does not show as refined a pattern as the *Gambars/Sampirs* of the southern types. It may look like it has been painted by somebody with different shades of water colour. This indicate North Malayan wood (Fig 188 d)⁶.



Fig 188 a, b, c, d) *Tanggah* types.

- a) A *Tanggah* type from the southern part of the Peninsula of Malacca.
- b) A *Riau Tanggah* type from Selangor or Johor.
- c) A *Tanggah* type from Terengganu
- d) A *Tanggah* type from Pattani.

⁶ This description builds on informations given to me by Mr Kai Wee.

The Tajong and Coteng Krisses from the Northern Part of the Peninsula of Malacca and Southern Thailand

The Kingfisher - Tajong Kris

In the northern part of the present Malaysia, *Kelantan* and the North *Terengganu* areas and in the most southern part of Thailand, the *Pattani* and *Songkhla* areas (they both belonged until the 18th cent. to the Malay area), the most distinctive kris is found, the *Tajong/kingfisher kris*⁷. It is called kingfisher because the hilt presumedly represents a long beaked *Garuda* bird, which looks like a kingfisher bird. Krisses with such a hilt was worn by influential men of noble birth. It was the kris of warriors (*Keris Pahlawan*). The long pointed beak is said to have had a special function. If the opponent came so near that you were unable to use the blade you might use the pointed beak to stab into the eyes of the opponent to blind him⁸. Most of the hilts are made of very hard wood (*Kemuning*, *Kenaung Ketengga* or *Setar*) and it represents some of the very best of the wood carving art in the Peninsula of Malacca, Malaysia and in all Indonesia. On especially brilliant specimens the whole beak may be covered in gold, suasa or silver. If it is so the eyes, the fangs and parts of the top of the head may be covered with precious metals, too. In *Pattani* and *Songkhla* you may find (*Coteng* type) hilts in silver. Very precious and rare specimens have a hilt in ivory. A short kris worn by *Yang di- Pertuan Agong* (the king of Malaysia) at ceremonial occasions has such a hilt⁹ (see Fig 202).

Hilts

There are mainly two types of hilts: The *Tajong* and the *Coteng* = the big and the small kingfisher hilts. The *Coteng* hilt - the small one - is said to be the oldest because it is the most naturalistic - its arms and feet are clearly indicated, the beak is straight, it may have curly hair hanging down its back, but it has no beard, which the *Tajong* type always has. On the later *Tajong* types, more influenced by Islam, it becomes more difficult to discern the arms and feet. They became vestigial and eventually disappeared and the beak grew longer and got an upturned tip. The head became more square and the floral and vegetative decoration became more and more pronounced¹⁰. Both hilt types presumedly represent the *Garuda* bird¹¹. It is sitting in a squatting *Pralambapada* position on a *Tumpal* throne. It has round protruding eyes, a long beak, an aggressive grinning mouth with teeth and fangs and a chin beard. Its wearing a crown or a diadem on its head and on the back of its head it wears a *Garuda-Mungkur* piece of jewellery (see p 11 note 13) and at its back it has indicated the tail of a bird. It has strong claws (*Panchanaka*) held in front of its breast.

⁷ *Kingfisher* is the English name of the hilt. In Malay it is called *Hulu Pekaka* (kingfisher) or *Tajong*. The kris got the name *Tajong* because of its distinctive *Sampir* (*Gambar*), which resembled the uplifted, winged shape of a *Pattani* fishing vessel by that name. *Coteng* comes from the word *Cotok*, which means beak, referring to its long straight beak. See Farish A. Noor and Eddin Khoo: *Spirit of Wood*, Singapore 2003, p 120-121. *Pattani* and *Songkhla* is said to have been home of the old Hindu realm *Langkasuka* (ibid p 153-160).

⁸ "Tajong men" means to strike with the arm which might refer to the stabbing effect of the beak. See Mubin Sheppard: *Taman Indera, Malay Decorative Arts and Pastimes*, Oxford University Press 1972, p128.

⁹ Abu Bakar: *Ironsmith* p 41.

¹⁰ See Farish A, Noor and Eddin Khoo: *Spirit of Wood*, Singapore 2003, p 120-121. See p 8.

¹¹ Some writers indicate that the hilts may represent a *Raksasa*, related to the *Dursasana* hilt from *Cirebon* (see chapter 4 Fig 29). But I think that the claws on its hands shows it is a *Garuda bird* and not a *Raksasa*, Only *Garuda*, apart from *Bima* and *Bayu*, has such claws and it cannot represent any of the last-mentioned.

Dating and Description of the Tajong Hilta) *Coteng* type. 18th cent. or earlier.b) *Coteng* type. 18th cent. or earlierc) *Tajong* type. The early 19th cent.d) *Tajong* type. The first half of 19th cent.e) *Tajong* type. The second part of 19th cent.f) *Tajong* type. The second part of the 19th cent.Fig 189) Dating of *Coteng* and *Tajong* hilts.

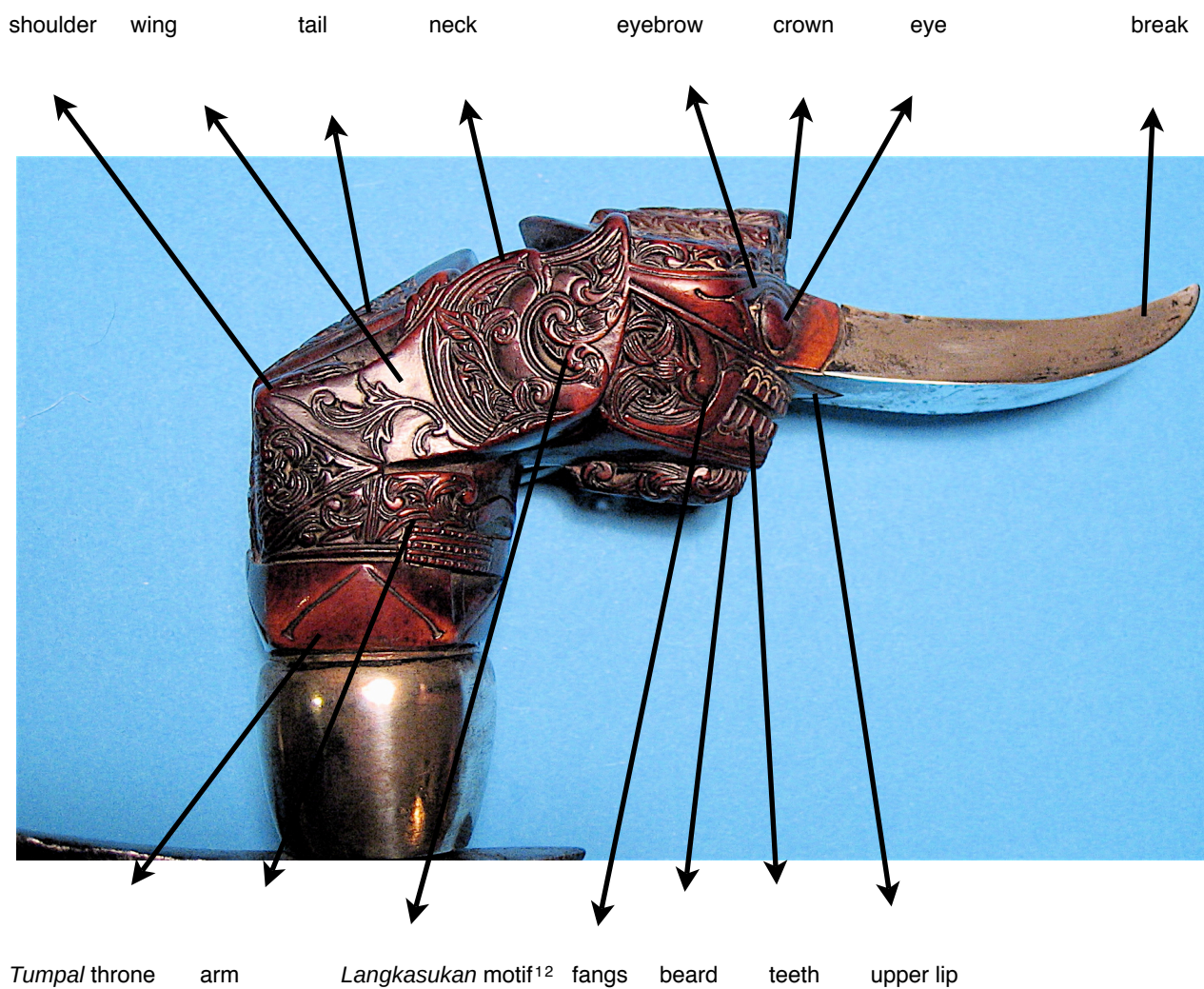
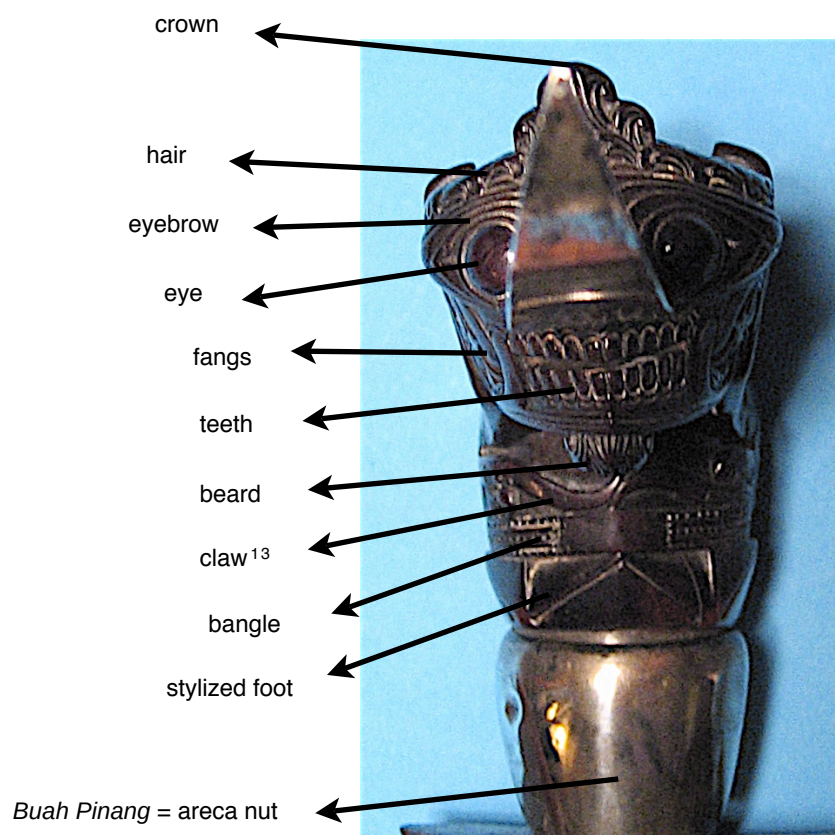
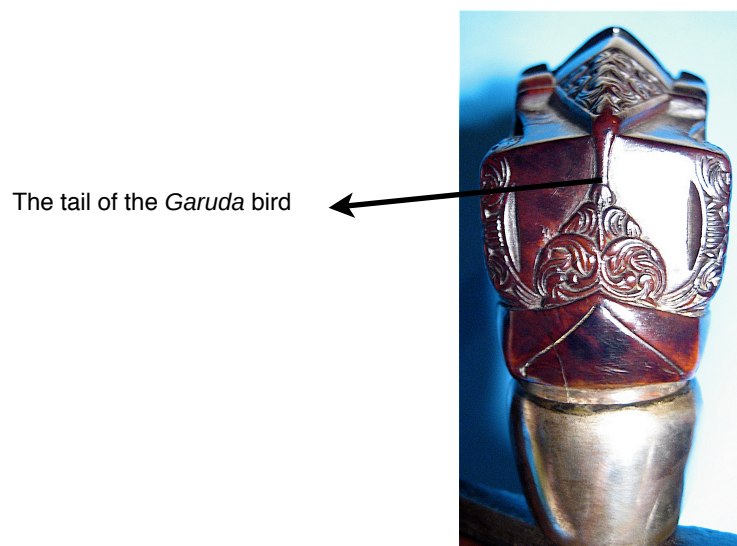


Fig 189 a) The profile of a *Tajong* hilt.

¹² The *Lankasukan/ Tajon* spiral motif represents a stylized *Makara* and the eternal spiral of life. Farish A. Noor and Eddin Khoo: *Spirit of Wood*, Singapore 2003, p 120 and 142.

Fig 189 b) The front of a *Tajong* hiltFig 189 c) The back of a *Tajong* hilt

¹³ The claws are the long thumb nails (*Panchanaka*) which only *Garuda*, *Bima* and *Bayu* have (see p 7 note 11).

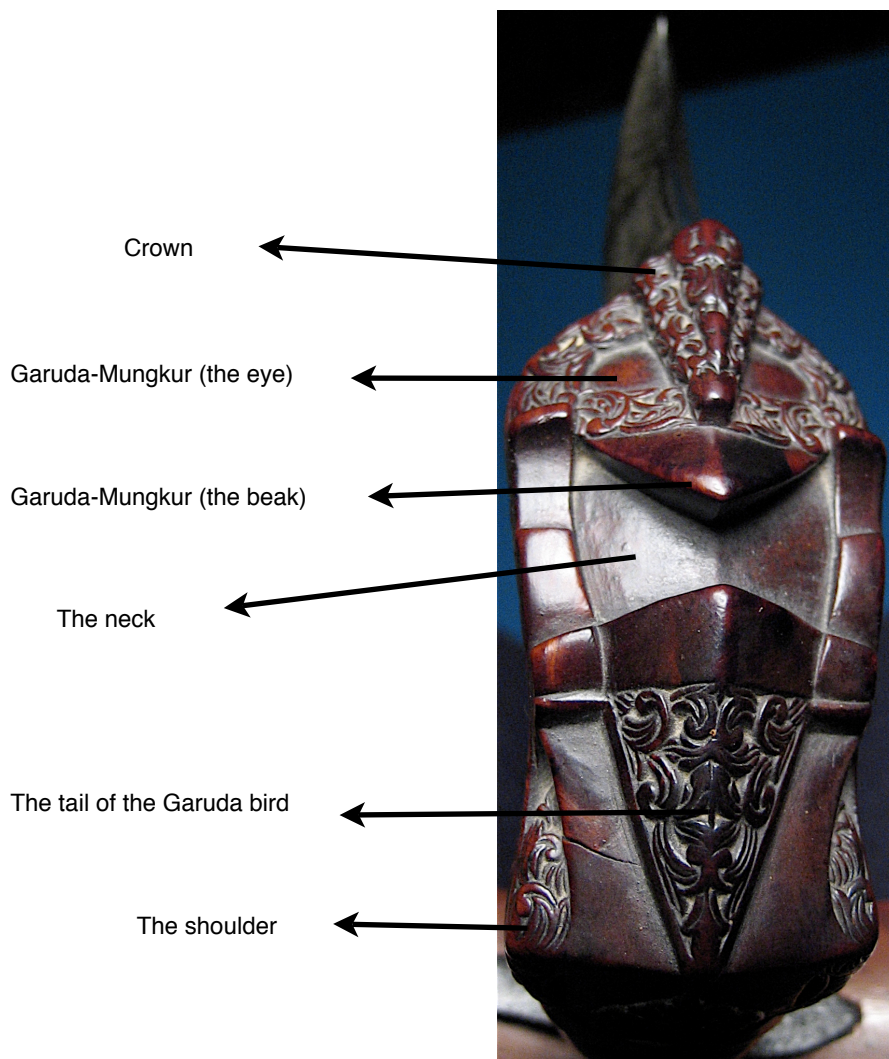


Fig 189 d) The top of the *Tajong* hilt with a *Garuda-Mungkur*¹⁴ and the tail of the *Garuda* bird.

¹⁴ *Garuda-Mungkur* is a piece of jewellery that a prince wears at the back of his head. It represents a *Garuda* head. M. Thomsen: *Java und Bali*, Stuttgart 1980, p 282. See chapter 6 Fig 50 and 57.



a)



b)



c)



d)

Fig 190 a, b, c, d)

a) A *Coteng* hilt in silver.

b) A *Tajong* hilt in wood. The beak is covered with *Suasa* and parts of the head and body are covered with silver decorations.

c) *Tajong* hilt in wood. The beak is partly covered with *Suasa* and parts of its head and body are covered with *Suasa* decorations, too. The crown on its head in gold has a gold decoration with *telur ikan* (fish-eggs)

d) A mixture of *Tajong* and *Jawa Demam* in ivory. The eyes are mounted with rubies.

Mendak/Pendokok and Selut

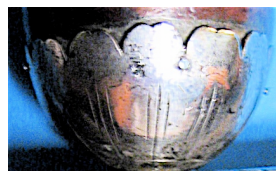
The big *Bungkul* of the hilt has often a tight-fitting *Selut* in *Suasa* or silver (Fig 191 a). The *Mendak/Pendokok* is often a big cup type with and without a short stem. It may be tight-fitting (Fig 191 b, c). It may have a lobed rim and be in openwork (Fig 191 d)



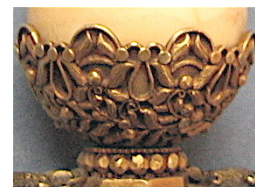
a)



b)



c)



d)

Fig 191 a, b, c, d)

a) A tight-fitting *Selut* in silver from Pattani.

b) A tight-fitting *Mendak/Pendokok* in *Suasa* from Pattani.

c) The big cup type of *Mendak/Pendokok* with a lobed rim in silver from Pattani.

d) The big cup type of *Mendak/Pendokok* in gold with a lobed rim, openwork and a short stem from Kelantan/Terengganu.

The Blades

The Tajong krisses usually have blades of the *Pandai Saras* type, which generally are rather primitive compared with the hilts. They are long and slim and may be as well sinuous as straight. They have a *Gandik* with *Telale Gajah* mostly with *Jenggot*, *Lambe Gajah*, *Djalu Memet* and *Grenengs* as well on the *Ganja* as on the blade (*Greneng Rangkep*). The *Pejetan* is mainly rather flat and *Tikel Alis* as well as *Sogokan* are usually missing. On the other hand they have a strong *Ada Ada*. The *Pamor* is generally rather bad and often indefinable (*Pamor Tiban*). In spite of this the blades have an astonishing elegant shape (*Dapor*). You may also find krisses with blades imported from other parts of Indonesia (Fig 192 d, e).

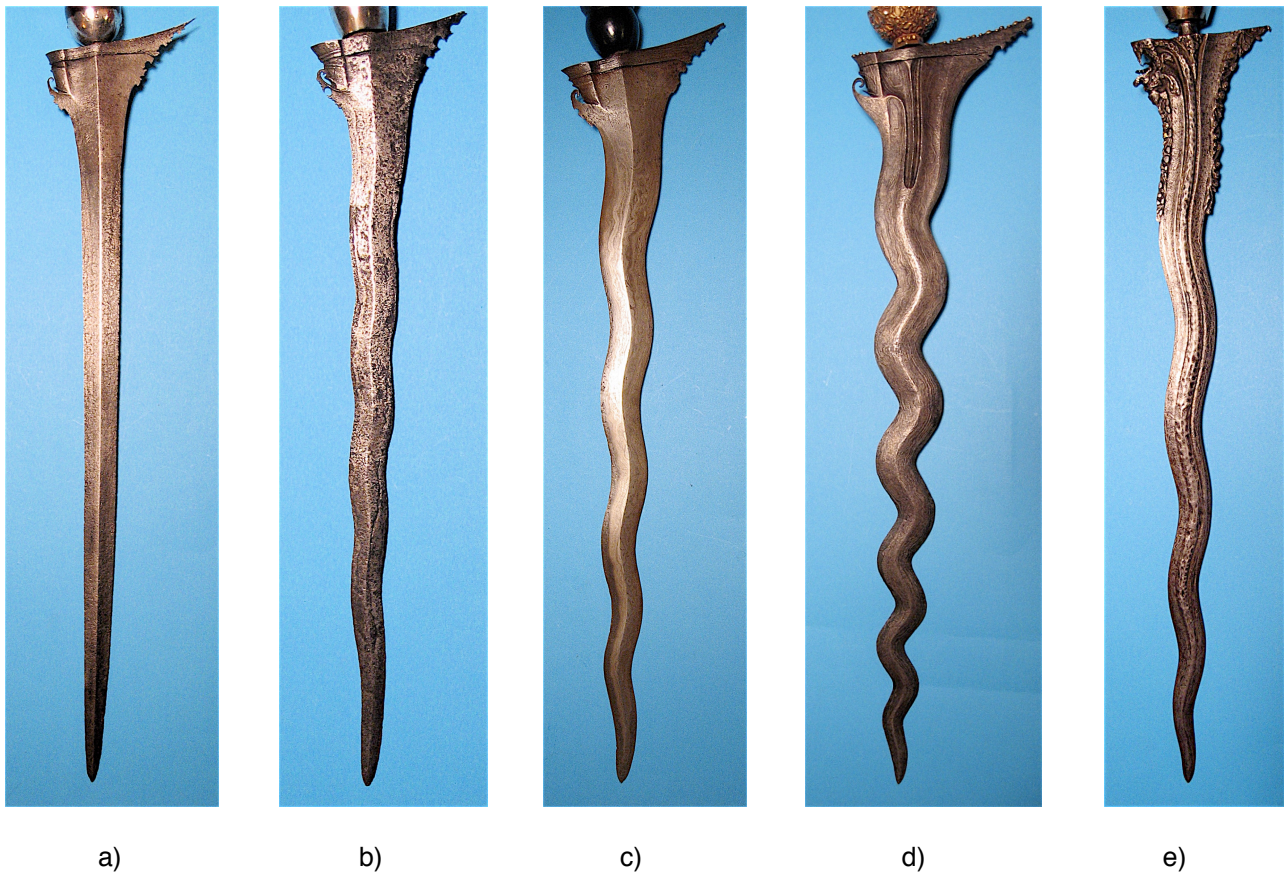


Fig 192 a, b, c, d, e)

- a) A classic *Pattani* blade - *Pandai Saras* type. Distinctive of this style is the broad but short *Sorsoran* portion of the blade¹⁵ and the long slim blade with a diamond cross section of the blade and the *Ganja*. It has expressive *Jenggot* and *Greneng*. The *Ganja* tends to be very long with a sharp, pointed *Sirah Cicak*. There is no *Pamor*, but a welded pattern forming long stripes¹⁶.
- b) Similar to a) but with *Lok*. Characteristic of the *Pattani* blades, the *Loks* are rather shallow.
- c) This *Pattani* blade has *Pamor Beras Wutah*.
- d) Probably a blade imported from *Java*, but with local decorations on the upper side of the *Ganja* (*Wuwung*).
- e) A *Mataram* blade imported from *Java* (the *Ganja* is missing).

¹⁵ This feature might indicate an influence from the *Segaluh* area in West Java, the 13th-15th century. Bambang Harsrinuksmo: *Ensiklopedi Keris*, Jakarta 2004, p 459.

¹⁶ Peninsular Kerises (on the internet) by David Henkel.

The Sheaths

The Sheath may be of the usual *Tanggah* type (Fig 193 a) but often they have a *Tajong* type of sheath also called the crayfish-claw shaped type of sheath (Fig 193 b). It is characterized by a *Gambar* which in the front and back part forms two high points which are pointing inwards like a big open crayfish-claw. The *Gandar* is very long, strong and rounded. The purpose of this long sheath is supposed to be that when the kris is worn on the back, you might kick at the base of the sheath with your heel, and seize the hilt as it came up level with your left shoulder¹⁷.



Fig 193 a, b, c, d)

a) A *Tanggah* type.

b) The *Tajong* type also called the crayfish-claw type.

c) In between a and b. It has a moderated *Tajong* shaped *Gambar* in ivory and a wooden *Gandar* with a *Buntut* in ivory.

d) A *Coteng* type.

¹⁷ Mubin Sheppard: *Taman Indera, Malay Decorative Arts and Pastimes*, Oxford University Press 1972, p 128.

The Krisses with Buginese-, Sumatra- or Moro influence.



Fig 194)
Hilt: Kerdas/Pangulu
 type.
Mendak/Pendokok:
 Flat cup and a short
 stem in bronze
 decorated with floral
 design (*Buginese*
Mendak/Pendokok
 type).
Blade: Dapor
Sempana Kelentang, 9
Lok. Buginese style.
Pamor: Ronsirih
 ("reflection" *Pamor* -
 by reflection the
 transverse stripes in
 the *Pamor* is formed,
 but in reality the blade
 is smooth) *Batu Lapak*
 on the base of the
 blade. The *Pamor* is in
 the Peninsula of
 Malacca called *Gigi*
Yui (shark's teeth) or
Ulur Lurut (snake skin)
Length of the blade: 37 cm.
Sheath: Tanggah, Pattani type
 in *Kemuning* wood.
Area: Pattani.
Date: 19th century.
*Private Collection*¹⁸

¹⁸ Karsten Sejr Jensen: *Den Indonesiske Kris* 1998, p 181 fig 119.



Fig 194 a)

Hilt: Jawa Demam/Hulu Pekaka in white clam shell.

Mendak/Pendokok: Big cup in partly openwork with a lobed rim decorated with knobs. It has a short stem consisting of a knobbed ring. All in silver.

Blade: Dapor Larngatap. *Carita* type (see p 3).

Sheath : *Tanggah, Pattani* type.

Area: Pattani

Date: 19th century

Private collection.



Fig 194 b)
Hilt: Kerdas/Pangulu, Pattani type.
Mendak/Pendokok: Buginese type in brass.
Blade: Dapor Sempana Bener. Pandai Saras type.
Sheath: Tanggah, Pattani type in Kemunning wood of the North Malaysia/South Thailand type.
Area: Pattani
Date: 19th century
Private collection.



Fig 195

Hilt: Kerdas/Pangulu in Riau style.

Mendak/Pendokok: Buginese type in copper.

Sheath: Tanggah type in Riau style. The Gandar is fitted with silver panels with floral decorations and silver rings (replaced from the older fittings)

Area: The southern Malaysian Peninsula, either Selangor or Johor.

Date: The middle of the 19th century.

Private collection.



Fig 195 a)

Hilt: Jawa Demam type.

Mendak/Pendokok: Buginese type in brass with floral decorations.

Blade: Dapor Sempana Kelangtan, 9 lok. Buginese style.

Sheath: Tanggah type in Riau style. *Pendok* in silver decorated with V shaped motifs (shredded pandan) in Buginese style. This type of decoration is mostly seen on only the lower part of the *Gandar* and the point of the V motifs are pointing downwards. It seems to be a local interpretation of "the shredded pandan" motif. (see chapter 8 Fig 118 and chapter 9,3 Fig 170).

Oval *Buntut* in silver.

Area: The southern part of the Peninsula of Malacca.

Date: 19th century.



Fig 196). Kris *Patrem*. The kris of a woman.
Hilt: Jawa Demam - Pipit Teleng type in wood.

Mendak/Pendokok: Cup with a lobed rim and a short stem in pewter. *Terengganu* type.

Blade: Dapor Pendawa Lare ? Buginese style.

Pamor: Tiban - a welded striped pattern - undefinable.

The length of the blade: 18, 3 cm.

Sheath: *Tanggah* type.

Area: Terengganu

Date: 19th century.

Private collection.



Fig 197)

Hilt: Jawa Demam - Pipit Teleng type in wood.

Mendak/Pendokok: Big cup on a short stem in silver decorated with a floral design in openwork.

Blade: Dapor Naga Pengantan¹⁹, 5 Lok. There is an inscription on the Ganja.

Pamor: none - distinctive of the *Terengganu* style the blade is smooth, shining and without *Pamor*.

Length of the blade: 36,5 cm.

Sheath: Tanggah type.

Area: Terengganu

Date: 19th century.

Private collection.

¹⁹ *Naga Pengantan* is two entwined snakes, symbolising the fertilizing water.



Fig 197 a)

Hilt: Jawa Demam - Pipit Teleng type in wood.
Mendak/Pendokok: Buginese type in brass decorated with floral design.

Blade: Dapor Sempana. The blade has an inlaid inscription in silver from the Koran verse xli 64 the last part: "God is the best protector and the most merciful of the most merciful. The victory is the Lord's and the conquest is near". Buginese style.

Pamor: Beras Wutah.

Length of the blade: 31,5 cm.

Area: Terengganu.

Date: 19th century.

Private collection.



Fig 197 b) *Kris Buda* - the kris of a *Pawang*/chieftain?

Hilt: Jawa Demam in wood.

Mendak/Pendokok: Silver cup with a deeply lobed rim on a short stem with a knobbed ring in the middle.

Blade: *Kris Buda* type (See chapter 2 Fig 5) with a *Telale Gajah* with *Jenggot*, a long *Gandik*, *Pejetan*, *Tikel*, *Alis*, *Greneng*, *Ada-Ada* and a broad *Gusen* (See chapter 1 Fig 1,11). A later version of the old *Kris Buda* type.

Probably used by a *Pawang* (shaman) for magic purposes. The *Kris Buda* was supposed to contain a great magical power (*Tuah*).

Pamor: none.

Sheath: *Tanggah- Pengulu* type: The broad *Gambar/Sampir* indicates that it had belonged to a chieftain.

Area: Terengganu.

Date: 19th century ?

Private collection.



Fig 197 c) The kris of a high ranked person
Hilt: Kerdas/Pangulu type in wood.

Mendak/Pendokok: Cup with a lobed rim decorated with floral design. The lower part is decorated with granulation and filigree work. All in gold
Blade: Dapor Anoman, 5 Lok. Malela type (see p 3). The Ganja is on its sides decorated with inlaid floral design in gold. The blade is without Pamor, which is characteristic of the blades from the Terengganu area.

Sheath: Malacca Tanggah type with a flat oval Buntut in wood.
Area: Terengganu.
Date: 19th century.
Private collection.



Fig 197 d) Keris Sundang Melayu.

Hilt: Stylized cockatoo in ivory. The grip is covered with silver decorated with floral motifs (*Okir*).

Blade: 7 lok in *Sulu* style. A single clamp in silver fasten the blade to the hilt.

Sheath: An unusual type with a *Gayaman Gambar* in Solo style. The *Gandar* is decorated with a silver band, which is decorated with floral motifs (*Okir*)

Area: The Peninsula of Malacca (Terengganu?)/Southern Sumatra.

Date: 19th century

Private collection.

Tajong and Coteng Krisses from the Northern Part of the Peninsula of Malacca and Southern Thailand



Fig 198) The kris of a nobleman.
Hilt: *Tajong/Kingfisher* type in wood decorated with

floral design. The long pointed beak is covered with silver.

Selut: The tight-fitting type in silver.

Blade: Dapor Sempama Kelentang, 9 Lok. *Pattani Pandai Saras* type.

Pamor: *Tiban* - a welded pattern - undefinable.

Length of the blade: 36,7 cm.

Sheath: *Tajong* type in wood.

Area: Pattani/Kelantan, the Northern Malaccan Peninsula.

Date: The early 19th century. Private collection²⁰.

²⁰ Karsten Sejr Jensen: *Den Indonesiske Kris* 1998, p 187 fig 122.



Fig 199) The kris of a nobleman.

Hilt: *Tajong/kingfisher* type in wood decorated with floral design. The long pointed beak is covered with *Suasa* and parts of the head and body are covered with silver decorations. The eyes are covered with gold.

Mendak/Pendokok: Tight fitting big cup in silver with a lobed rim.

Blade: *Dapor Sempana Bener*. Typical *Pattani Pandai Saras* type.

Pamor: *Tiban* - a welded pattern - undefinable.

Length of the blade: 41 cm.

Sheath: *Tajong* type in wood - *Wrangka Iras* (made in one piece). Floral decorations on the *Gambar* and *Mata Ketiga Siva* (the third eye of *Siva*)²¹.

Area: Pattani/Kelantan, the Northern Malaccan Peninsula.

Date: The second part of the 19th century.

Private collection²².

²¹ See Farish A. Noor and Eddin Khoo: *Spirit of Wood*, Singapore 2003, p 169.

²² Karsten Sejr Jensen: *Den Indonesiske Kris* 1998, p 183 fig 120.



Fig 200) The kris of a nobleman.

Hilt: Tajong/kingfisher type in wood decorated with floral design. The long pointed beak is partly covered with *Suasa*. The eyes and parts of the head and body are also covered with *Suasa* decorations..

Blade: Dapor Sempana Kalentang, 9 Lok.

Pamor: Beras Wutah.

Length of the blade: 38,7 cm.

Sheath: Tajong type in wood. Floral decorations on the *Gambar* and *Mata Ketiga Siva* (the third eye of *Siva*)

Area: Pattani/Kelantan, the Northern Malaccan Peninsula.

Date: The second part of the 19th century.

Private collection²³.



²³ Karsten Sejr Jensen: *Den Indonesiske Kris* 1998, p 185 fig 121.



Fig 201) The kris of a prince or a nobleman.

Hilt: *Tajong/kingfisher* type in wood decorated with floral design. The long pointed beak is partly covered with *Suasa* and parts of the head and body are covered with *Suasa* decorations. The top of the crown is in gold decorated with fish egg (*Telur Ikan*) decorations.

Mendak/Pendokok: Tight-fitting cup in *Suasa*.

Blade: Dapor Nagasasra, 9 Lok. It represents the *Naga Raja*, who guards the wish-fulfilling jewel (*Cintâmana*), which is placed on top of its crown. It has an open mouth with pointed teeth and a very aggressive look. Its scaly body entwines along the middle of the blade until the 7th Lok. Below the head a *Tumpal*, representing the tree of life, and in the *Bewang Sebungkul* is represented a flame or a tree of life. Along the sides of the blade in the *Sorsoran* area it is decorated with floral pattern symbolizing the tree of life (*Lung Kamarogan Kinatah*). So the *Naga Raja* guards the treasures of the depth as well as the very vitality of life. The *Naga Raja* and the other decorations have been covered with gold (*Kinatah Emas*), but most of it has been worn off. The blade comes from Java and is from the *Mataram* Period - the 17th century. The

Ganja is missing, but the handle as well as the sheath seems to have been born with the blade without the *Ganja*. The *Peksi* has been made to fit the hilt without the *Ganja* and also the sheath has been made to fit the blade perfectly without the *Ganja*.

Pamor: Beras Wutah.

Length of the blade: 35 cm.

Sheath: *Tajong* type in wood.

Area: Pattani/Kelantan, the Northern Malaccan Peninsula.

Date: The blade is from the 17th century and the rest is from the early part of the 19th century. The kris comes from the collection of a Danish planter in the *Pattani/Kelantan* area of the Malacca. In the first part of the 20th century he collected as many kingfisher-krissees as he could get hold on. This one is numbered 3.

Mr L. Sunde bought it from him and it was in his collection for many years.²⁴

Private collection.

²⁴ Gorm Benzons: *Antikviteter fra nær og fjern*. Copenhagen 1964, p 161.



Fig 202) A state kris.

Hilt: Tajong/ Short Nosed Kingfisher type in ivory. It holds its right arm obliquely across its breast and hides its hand under its wing. In this way the handle represents a mixture of *the kingfisher* and the *Jawa Demam* type. The eyes are mounted with rubies in gold settings.

Mendak/Pendokok: Big golden openwork cup with a lobed rim on a short stem consisting of a knobbed ring and an edged plate. All in gold.

Blade: Dapor Parungsari, 13 Lok. The upper side of the *Ganja (Wuwung)* is decorated with a gilt floral design and an elephant like- and a tiger like creature are placed on each side of the *Peksi*. Local work. The blade was probably imported from Java.

Pamor: Beras Wutah.

Length of the blade: 36,6 cm.

Sheath: A moderate *Tajong* type of *Gambar* in ivory. A fire/trident symbol is represented in the middle of the lower part of the *Gambar* - the same symbol is seen on the back of the hilt (See chapter 9,3 Fig 165). The *Gandar* is a *Buginese* type in wood with an oval *Buntut* in ivory.

Area: Southern Kelantan/Terengganu ?

Date: 18th/early 19th century. The kris was formerly in the collection of Mr. L. Sunde²⁵. Private collection²⁶.

²⁵ See Gorm Benzon: *Antikviteter fra nær og fjern*. Copenhagen 1964, p 161

²⁶ Karsten Sejr Jensen: *Den Indonesiske Kris* 1998, p 189 fig 123.



Fig 203)

Hilt: Coteng type in wood (The small kingfisher type with a straight beak)²⁷.

Mendak/Pendokok: A shallow cup on bulbed stem decorated with filigree in gold

Blade: Dapor Sempana Bener. *Pandai Saras* type.

Sheath: *Tajong Coteng* style - *Wrangka Iras* (a bit of the *Angkup* is broken off).

Area: Pattani/Songkhla

Date: 18th century or earlier.

Private collection.

²⁷ It is said to be an old type (18th century or earlier). On the later *Tajong* types from the later part of the 19th cent. the arms and especially the legs became vestigial and the style became more and more ornate, so all became hidden under a welter of foliage. See Farish A. Noor and Eddin Khoo: *Spirit of Wood*, Singapore 2003, p 121. See p 8 e and f.



Fig 203 a)

Hilt: Coteng type in wood (The small kingfisher type with a straight beak). The hilt is very worn.

Selut: The tight-fitting type in silver.

Blade: Dapor Sempana Kalentang, 9 lok. The *Loks* are rather shallow, which may indicate that it comes from Pattani²⁸. It is very worn.

Pamor: ?

Length of the blade: 37,4 cm.

Sheath: Tanggah, Pattani type with a flat *Buntut* in wood. The type of wood may indicate Kelantan.

Area: Pattani/ Songkhla.

Date: 18th century or earlier type of hilt. The sheath, however, which fits the blade perfectly is from the 19th century.

Private collection.

²⁸ Mr Kai Wee thinks its *Dapor* indicates Central Sumatra.



Fig 204 a)

Hilt: A straight nosed *Kingfisher - Coteng* type in almost solid silver- a type of hilt found in Songkhla in the *Peninsula of Malacca*. The type differentiates from the *Tajong* types in *Pattani* by having a long curly hair hanging down its back and by having no chin beard. The triangle on its head represents the *Garuda-Mungkur*, but the eyes of the figure is missing on this type. (see chapter 6 Fig, 50, 57 and chapter 10 fig 189 d). Notice the *Langkusukan/Tajong* spiral on the side of its head, representing a *Makara* head and the eternal spiral of life²⁹.

Blade: Dapor: Megantara, 7 Lok. A Buginese type of blade.

Pamor: Beras Wutah with Nogro Guno in the *Sorsoran* part of the blade.³⁰

Length of the blade: 27 cm.

Sheath: *Makassar-Gowa Ladrang* type with rattan binding at the lower part of the *Gandar*. Oval *Buntut* in wood.

Area: Songkhla in Southern Thailand.

Date: 18th/early 19th century. Private collection (K.S.Jensen: *Den Indonesiske Kris*, 1998 p 177, fig 117.)

²⁹ The *Makara* is a hybrid aquatic being. Out of its mouth all plant and animal life are streaming. It represents the fertilizing water. Gerhard J. Bellinger: *Mytologisk Leksikon Kbhn.* 1993, p 238. Farish A. Noor and Eddin Khoo: *Spirit of Wood*, Singapore 2003, p 120 and p 142.

³⁰ A *Pamor* figuration which gives the blade great power.



Fig 204 b)

Hilt: Coteng type in silver (The small *Kingfisher* type with a straight beak).

Blade: Dapor Kapal Gudjong?, 7 Lok.

Pamor: Sumsum Buron (worn) ? with Nogro Guno or Sangga Braja in the *Sorsoran* part of the blade. The *Sorsoran* part of the blade is rather broad, because the *Gandik* part is sloping more than usual.

Length of the blade: 27,5 cm.

Sheath: *Tajong Coteng* style decorated on the *Gandar* with silver plates and rings.

Area: Songkhla in Southern Thailand.

Date: The 18th/19th century.

Private collection.



Fig 204 c)

Hilt: Coteng type in silver (The small *Kingfisher* type with a straight beak).

Blade: Dapor Sempana, 7 lok.

Pamor: Beras Wutah with Nogro Guno or Sangga Braja in the *Sorsoran* part of the blade (see Fig 204 a).

Sheath: Tajong Coteng style. *Buntut* in black horn (Sumatra style).

Area: Songkhla in Southern Thailand.

Date: 18th/19th century.

Private collection.

31

³¹ I especially want to thank Mr Kai Wee in Singapore and Mr Michael Marlow in Stockholm for assisting me with this chapter.