

Chapter 12
The Philippines



The Philippines and the Sulu Islands

When Ferdinand *Magellan*, the famous Spanish explorer, in 1521 landed in *the Philippines*, the southern part including *Mindanao* and the *Sulu Islands* had already converted to *Islam*. In 1565 the Spaniards had conquered the Philippines. All through the next 333 years *the Philippines* were under *Spanish* rule. However, the inhabitants in *Mindanao* and *the Sulu Islands*, called the *Moros* by the Spaniards (the Spanish word for Moors = Muslims), fought the Christian Spaniards and remained free. They appeared in *the South Chinese Sea* and *the Sulu Sea* as merchants and feared pirates. The fleets of the *Moros* might include a hundred or more ships. Some of these ships were built like the Roman galleys with three decks of rowers, armed with several canons and a crew of about 150 men. With these ships they even dared to attack the heavy armed *Spanish* and *Dutch* warships. In the end of the 18th century the *Moros* built a fort on the southern point of *Sumatra*, which made them able to interfere with the sailing traffic through *the Sunda Straits* and to attack the Javanese stretches of coast and capture slaves¹. It was not until the arrival of the *Americans* at the end of the 19th century that *the American Navy* put an end to the independence and the piracy of the *Moros*².

Moro-Krisses

The krisses of the *Moros*³ gives a clear impression of the will of the *Moros* to attack and defend themselves. The *Moro-krisses* belong to the longest and most heavy krisses, and even if they are of exquisite workmanship and ornamentation, you will never doubt that they are fighting weapons. They are designed and forged in the same way as krisses in Indonesia. They contain iron, steel and may have *Pamor*, but much more steel is used for these blades than for the blades of krisses from other parts of Indonesia. The quality of the best of *Moro-blades* will come up to the famous Spanish *Toledo-blades*. Characteristic of the *Moros* they have mended the weak spot of the kris, the thin round tang, which by a heavy blow might bent and make the kris useless. They did this by making the tang sturdy and rectangular. It was even more a necessity as the *Moros* practiced a heavy cut slash fighting. Because of that they had to make sure, too, that the hilt was fastened to the blade in quite another way than the hilts of krisses usually are. They solved this problem by locking the hilt onto the blade in a special way: A metal ribbon, which runs up over the tang and through the top of the hilt, is locked to the blade by means of one or two metal stirrup shaped clamps (*Baca-Baca*), which are squeezed down on the lower part of the blade and so lock the ends of the metal ribbons to the blade.

The Hilts

The shape of the hilts (*Sooang*)⁴ indicates *Indonesian* influence, too. Most often the top of the hilt represents the head of a stylized bird, a *cockatoo* - the local version of *Garuda* (Fig 227 a, e). Another major category of hilts are the basically straight ones (they are bent a little forward). Their pommels may be hexagonal, octogonal, oval or spherical in shape (Fig

¹ Bernard H. M. Vlekke: *Nusantara, A History of Indonesia*, Hague 1965, p 206.

² The Americans took over the Philippines after they in the American-Spanish War in 1898 had vanquished the Spaniards.

³ They call their krisses *Sundang*.

⁴ The *Moros* call the hilt *Sooang*, *Ulu-Ulu* or *Puhan*..

227 b). The plainer ones of this type of krisses were designed primarily for battle duties⁵ (Fig 227 d). On some Moro-hilts from the *Sulu Islands* you may find a *horse's hoof* shaped top (Fig 227 c). The horse was a highly appreciated animal, which endowed its owner with status, strength and power. So the symbol of *the horse's hoof* on top of the hilt indicated the power and status of its owner and imbued the kris with the power of the horse's hoof. The materials used for this part of the hilt might be *Banati-wood* or other kinds of precious wood, horn, ivory from an elephant, a sea cow or ivory from other kinds of sea animals as well. The grip may be covered with plaited hair from horses or jute twine plaited in intricate patterns coated with black lacquer or alternately bands of plaited silver wire and bands of silver or gold. Ivory, silver and gold indicated high status - the rank of a nobleman (*Datu*)⁶. The krisses of the middle-class had only a top in wood and their grips were perhaps only covered with plaited jute twine, rattan or horse hair and eventually plaited silver wire. The noblemen, chiefs, and sultans (the *Datu* class) had special state krisses called *Junggayans*⁷ (Fig 227 e). The hilts of these krisses have a big top representing a stylized cockatoo in ivory or silver (generally it consists of a wooden core, overlaid with sheets of silver, but it may be in solid silver, too (Fig 232 a) which is very elaborated and beautiful. The grip may be covered with alternately rings in gold and plaited silver wire or gold⁸ or silver rings which might be decorated with a floral *Okir-design*⁹. The blades may be inlaid with a similar design in silver wire.

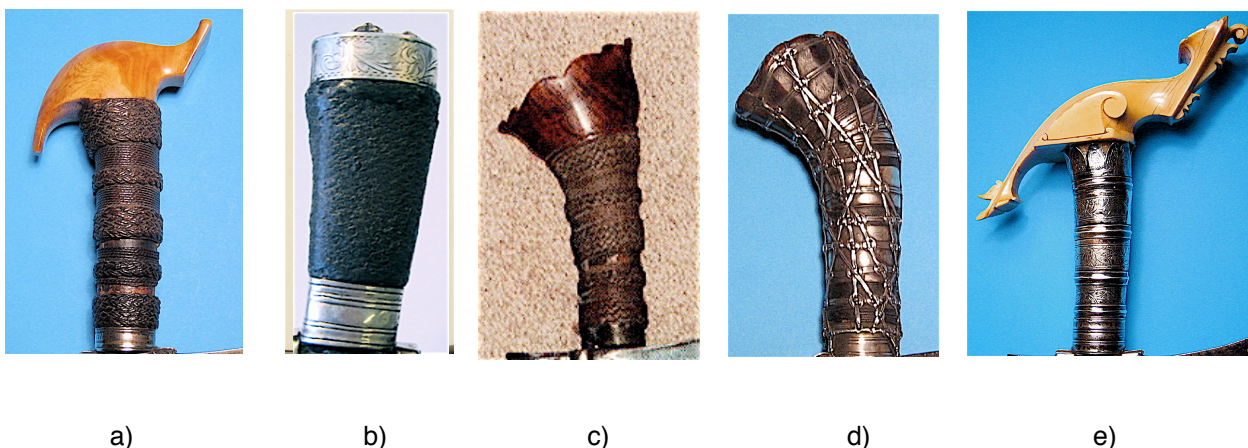


Fig 227 a, b, c, d, e)

- a) Stylized *cockatoo* in ivory. The grip is covered with plaited jute.
- b) Straight type with an *Okir* decorated silver top. The grip is covered with plaited jute.
- c). *Horse's hoof* type in *Banati* wood. The grip is covered with plaited jute.
- d) Battle-kris hilt in wood (*horse's hoof* top) covered with silver sheets and silver wire.
- e) *Junggayan cockatoo* hilt in ivory. The grip is covered with silver rings decorated with *Okir* motifs.

⁵ Robert Cato: *Moro Swords*, Singapore 1996, p 75

⁶ The old Moro society was ruled by the *Sultan of Mindanao* and the *Sultan of the Sulu Islands*. The leaders and their family members below the Sultans were called *Datus*. Sometimes they were richer and more influential than the Sultans.

⁷ *Junggayan* means elongated. This refers to the extended crest and bill on the *cockatoo* pommels of the gentry-class (*Datu*) *Sundangs*.

⁸ Gold is seldom seen. The Prophet *Mohammed* did not approve of gold as personal adornment for men. It was generally considered to be weak, female-oriented and easily penetrated by *Satan*. Silver and alloys like *Suasa* are deemed to be strong, pure and manly. Robert Cato: *Moro Swords*, Singapore 1996, p 81.

⁹ Floral design.

The Mendak

The Moro krisses do not have *Mendaks* or *Seluts*. They only have a simpel metal ring - a ferrule at the bottom of the hilt. It is often in silver. The purpose of this ring was to secure the hilt and its fittings and to serve as a decoration.

The Blades

The *Moros* differentiate between 3 types of blades. The kris with the straight blade is called *Sundang Espada (Matidto, Kalis Tulid)* (Fig 228 a), the one with many waves is called *Seko (Lanti, Kalis Seko)* (Fig 228 c and d), and the type which has waves in the lower part, but is straight in the upper part of the blade is called *Ranti (Luma, Kalis Taluseko)* (Fig 228 b)^{10,11} The blades may have *Pamor-patterns*, but as the blades often have been polished by their new American or European owners, it may be difficult to see. Originally the *Moros* darkened their blades by chemical substances, which highlighted the layers of various metals within them. Especially the older blades may have a clear *Pamor-pattern* in the middle of the blade. It is often a kind of "herringbone" pattern like *Pamor Blarak Ngirid* (Fig 228 b). But in other cases - especially on late blades - it is not a genuin *Pamor*, but an artificial pattern produced by acid-etching (Fig 228 d). Moro-blades may be difficult to date, but as a rule of thumb the real old blades from the 18th century or older are more slim and not as heavy as the younger ones¹². Furthermore they display distinctive wave patterning. Usually the waves are fewer in number and widely spaced along the length of the blade and they have a genuin *Pamor* in the middle of the blade¹³ (Fig 228 b). A part of the *Moro-blades* were not forged in *Mindanao* or the *Sulu* Islands. Some of the best blades may have been forged by the *Tendong (Tanjong)-dayaks* and Mohammedan smiths¹⁴ in *North Borneo*, and the principality of *Brunei* is said to have delivered a lot of Moro-blades, too¹⁵.

¹⁰ Robert Cato: *Islamic Swords of Southern Philippines*, Arts of Asia, January-February 1991, p 108. The terms I use are *Maranao* terms.

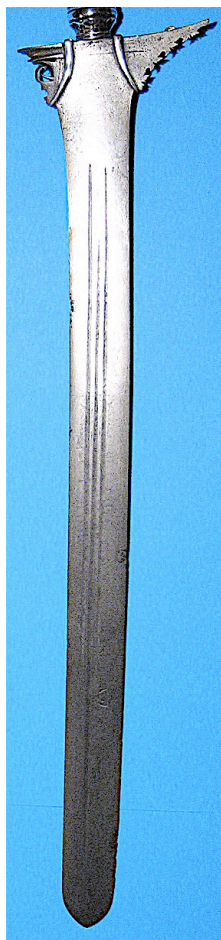
¹¹ Robert Cato: *Moro Swords*, Singapore 1996, p 20.

¹² Ibid page 65 : "Kris blades that are two to four hundred years old usually display straight lines at the separation point (between the *Ganja* and the blade). As sword-making approached the Twentieth Century, the two-piece blades were produced in a slightly different way-- as the line approaches the outer side of the guard, it suddenly deviates downwards at an angle of about 45 degrees". However, I do not think he is right. Old blades may also have this line of separation with the same deviation of 45 degrees. But usually the *Ganja* of the younger blades are broader than the one of the older blades, so the angled part of the line of separation between the *Ganja* and the blade becomes longer (See Fig 228 e, f).

¹³ Robert Cato: *Moro Swords*, Singapore 1996, p 71 and 72.

¹⁴ The first iron implements or weapons were introduced from Borneo, where the industry is much older and where there is a sufficient supply of ore. Later, knowledge of working iron was imported in the Philippines along with the supply of raw material. --- Many of the steel blades attributed to the Mohammedan Moro were probably made by Mohammedan smiths in Borneo where the iron industry is much older and where particular Malay weapons assume their most characteristic and beautiful shapes. Herbert W. Krieger: *The Collection of Primitive Weapons and Armor of the Philippine Islands in the United States National Museum*, Washington 1926, p 14-15.

¹⁵ P. Holstein: *Contribution a L'étude des Armes Oriental*, tome 1, Paris 1931, p 214-215.



a)



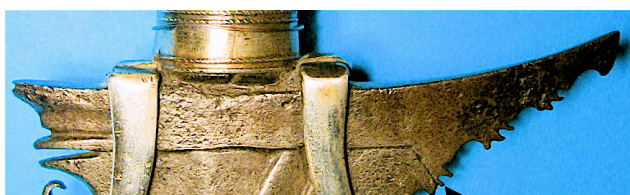
b)



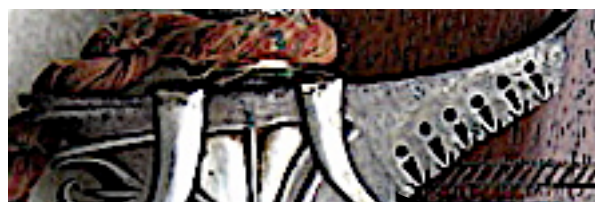
c)



d)



e)



f)

Fig 228 a, b, c, d, e, f)

a) The straight blade called *Sundang Espada*.

b) The blade with waves in the lower part, but is straight in the upper part of the blade, is called *Ranti*. Old blade with genuine *Pamor* in the middle of the blade.

c) The blade with many waves is called *Seko*.

d) A late *Seko* blade with acid etched *Pamor* (false *Pamor*) in the middle of the blade. Late 19th century.

e) The angled line of separation between the *Ganja* and the blade on an old blade - 18th century.

f) The angled line of separation between the *Ganja* and the blade on a later blade - 19th century.

The Sheaths

Compared with the krisses the sheath (*Taguban*) are often astonishing primitive and simple. The shapes are mainly *Tanggah* (Fig. 229 a), *Sandang Walikat* (Fig 229 b), *Ladrang* (Fig 229 c), *old Ladrang* (Fig 229 d) and a crescent shaped type (*Gambar-Tanggala*) (Fig 229 e). The *Buntut* of the *Tanggah* and the *Ladrang* type may broaden into a flat rather big wooden plate and the *Sandang Walikat* type usually has a rounded black horn *Buntut* wedged into the end of the *Gandar* in *Sumatran* style (Fig 229 b). A special type without *Gambar* is found in the Minguindanao area in Mindanao (Fig 229 f).



Fig 229 a, b, c, d, e, f) Different sheath-types.

a) A *Tanggah* type. Mindanao/Sulu Islands.

b) A *Sandang Walikat* type. Sulu Islands/Mindanao.

c) A *Ladrang* type. Notice the big flat Buntut. Sulu Islands/North Borneo.

d) An *old Ladrang* type. Sulu Islands/Mindanao.

e) A crescent shaped type (*Gambar-Tanggala*). Sulu Islands/Mindanao.

f) A type without *Gambar* from Minguindanao in Mindanao.

Area

Depending on the cultural-linguistic classifications that are applied, the number of the Moro tribes in the Southern Philippines is placed at between ten and thirteen. But it is difficult to determine from which tribe and area a specific kris may come. There may of course have been a knowledge about the differences, but no information has been collected about it and if this knowledge once was available, it went to grave with the Moros of an earlier era. Further the Moro tribes have for centuries had commercial-, martial contacts or family relations with each other and thereby they have exchanged weapons, blades, handles etc. with each other, so although there still are some differences to be seen, I think that you may never be sure if a specific kris was worn by a Moro in the area from where it originally came. Therefore I prefer only to write *Sulu/Mindanao* or *Mindanao/Sulu* to indicate from which of the main areas a kris may come. The area I write first indicates that I think a kris most probably comes that area¹⁶. If I am certain, however, of the area of origin in question, I only write the name of that particular area.

¹⁶ I use the *Maranao* names for the different parts of the kris. See Robert Cato: *Moro Swords*, Singapore 1996, p 60. Robert Cato: *Islamic Swords of Southern Philippines*, *Arts of Asia*, January and February 1991, p 108. In this article Robert Cato also uses *Maranao* names in his description of the Moro krisses.

The Moro Krisses - Sundangs



Fig 230) *Datu Moro-kris, Sundang - regent-style.*

Hilt: Stylized ivory cockatoo (*Junggayan style?*) (very worn - the back part is broken off long ago). Grip with alternately rings in gold and plaited silver wire.

Blade: Dapor Sundang Ranti, 5 Lok. Two silver clamps (*Baca Baca*) to fasten the hilt to the blade.

Pamor: Blarak Ngirid.

Length of the blade: 50 cm.

The sheath is missing- it has had a *Sandang Walikat* sheath like Fig 233.

Area: Sulu Islands/Mindanao.

Date: 18th century.

Formerly in the collection of Mr. G.B. Gardner¹⁷.

Private collection¹⁸.

¹⁷ G. B Gardner: *Keris and other Malay Weapons*: Singapore 1936, p 22 fig 9,6 and p 36 fig 21,2.

¹⁸ Karsten Sejr Jensen: *Den Indonesiske Kris*, Copenhagen 1998, p 205 fig 131.



Fig 231) *Datu Moro-kris, Sundang* - regent style - ceremonial state kris, *Junggayan* style.

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

Blade: Dapor Sundang Espada. Two silver clamps (*Baca Baca*) fasten the hilt to the blade.

Pamor: ?

Length of the blade: 54 cm.

Area: Sulu Islands/Mindanao.

Date: First half of the 19th century. Private collection¹⁹

¹⁹ Karsten Sejr Jensen: *Den Indonesiske Kris*, Copenhagen 1998, p 199 fig 128.



Fig 232) *Datu Moro,, Sundang* - regent style - ceremonial state kris, *Junggayan* style.

Hilt: Stylized ivory cockatoo (*Junggayan*). The grip is covered with rings in gold alternately decorated with a chased pattern illustrating plaited cord and *Okir* motifs.

Blade: Dapor Sundang Ranti, 5 Lok.

Pamor: Blarak Ngirid in the middle of the blade. It is outlined with an inlaid gold wire. Notice the arrow in the middle of the *Sorsoran* area. It is an indication of the blade is 200-300 years old²⁰. Two silver clamps (*Baca Baca*) fasten the hilt to the blade.

Area: Sulu Islands/ Mindanao.

Date: 18th century.

Formerly in the collection of Mr. L. Sunde.

²⁰ Robert Cato: *Moro Swords*, Singapore 1996, p 70. The arrowhead is said to be the specific abode of the spirit of the blade.



Fig 232 a) *Datu Moro-kris, Sundang - regent style, ceremonial state kris, Junggayan style.*

Hilt: Stylized big cockatoo (*Junggayan*) in

solid silver (length: 18,5 cm). The grip with alternately gilt rings (copper covered with a thick layer of gold) and rings of plaited silver wire. A plaited red cloth with black and yellow stripes is fastened to the hilt. It is probably an *Anting-Anting*, a talisman blessed by an imam.

Blade: Dapor Sundang Seko, 23 Lok. The *Sogokans* are inlaid with silver and the delimitations of the middle of the blade (the *Pamor* area) are inlaid with silver wire.

The trident symbol (the symbol of Siva) at the point of the blade is inlaid with silver wire, too (most of the silver wire is missing)²¹. Two silver clamps (*Baca Baca*) fasten the hilt to the blade.

Pamor: Beras Wutah in the middle of the blade.

Length of the blade: 60 cm. Total length: 76 cm.

Sheath: A crescent shaped type (*Gambar-Tanggala*). It has 4 rattan bindings. (Sulu Island style)

Area: Sulu Islands/ Mindanao.

Date: The middle of the 19th century.

Formerly in the collection of Mr. Ch. van der Wel and Mr. S. Cornelius²².

Private collection.



Fig 232 b)

Datu Moro-kris, Sundang - regent style, ceremonial state kris, *Junggayan* style.

Hilt: Stylized big cockatoo (*Junggayan*) in silver. The grip with alternately Suasa rings and rings of plaited silver wire.

Blade: Dapor Sundang Espada. Two silver clamps (*Baca Baca*) fasten the hilt to the blade. The blade is decorated with a magic pattern and an *Okir* pattern in inlaid silver wire.

Length of the blade: 60 cm. Total length: 76 cm.

Area: Sulu Islands/ Mindanao.

Date: The middle of the 19th century.

Private collection.

²¹ The old traditions of the Moros held that the trident symbol of Siva faced the enemy and thus protected the user of the kris from harm. The oval shape of the lower part of the trident protects the owner of the kris by placing him magically in the middle of the oval. He was thus guarded on each of the four sides by the trident talisman. R. Cato: *Moro Swords*, Singapore 1996, p 102.

²² Ing. Tammens: *De Kris* vol 2, Eelderwolde 1993, p 226-227 and vol 3, p 15. A similar kris is found in Herbert W. Krieger: *The Collection of Primitive Weapons and Armor of the Philippine Islands in the United States National Museum*, Washington 1926, Bulletin 137, plate 14 nr. 7. It was collected by Col. Frank F. Hilder in 1900.



Fig 233) *Datu Moro-kris, Sundang.*

Hilt: Stylized cockatoo in ivory - *Danganan* style²³. The grip is covered with alternately silver rings and plaited silver wire. On the top of the grip there are openwork *Okir*-motifs. Two silver clamps (*Baca Baca*) fasten the hilt to the blade.

Blade: Dapor Sundang Espada.

Pamor: Beras Wutah?

Length of the blade: 51,5 cm

Sheath: *Sandang Walikat* with a rounded black horn
Buntut wedged into the end of the *Gandar* (Sumatra style)

Area: Sulu Islands/Mindanao²⁴.

Date: Early 19th century.

*Private collection*²⁵.

²³ *Danganan* refers to any decorative kris pommel/hilt. Through common usage, the term has come to refer to a particular form of cockatoo hilt that is simple but attractive. Robert Cato: *Moro Swords*, Singapore 1996, p 103.

²⁴ The sheath type may however indicate that this kris comes from Southern Sumatra/ Malaysia.

²⁵ Karsten Sejr Jensen: *Den Indonesiske Kris*, Copenhagen 1998, p 201 fig 129.



Fig 234) Moro-kris, Sundang.

Hilt: A stylized cockatoo in ivory - *Danganan* style.

The grip is covered with plaited jute cord. There is a silver ring at the end of the grip. The hilt is fastened to the blade with two silver clamps (*Baca Baca*).

Blade: Dapor Sundang Seko, 19 Lok.

Pamor: Ronkenduru (the palm-branch) in the middle of the blade. A select *Pamor* for leaders.

Length of the blade: 49 cm

Sheath: Old *Ladrang* type with rotang bindings.

Area: Sulu Islands/Mindanao.

Date: First half of the 19th century.

Private collection²⁶

²⁶ Karsten Sejr Jensen: *Den Indonesiske Kris*, Copenhagen 1998, p 203 fig 130.

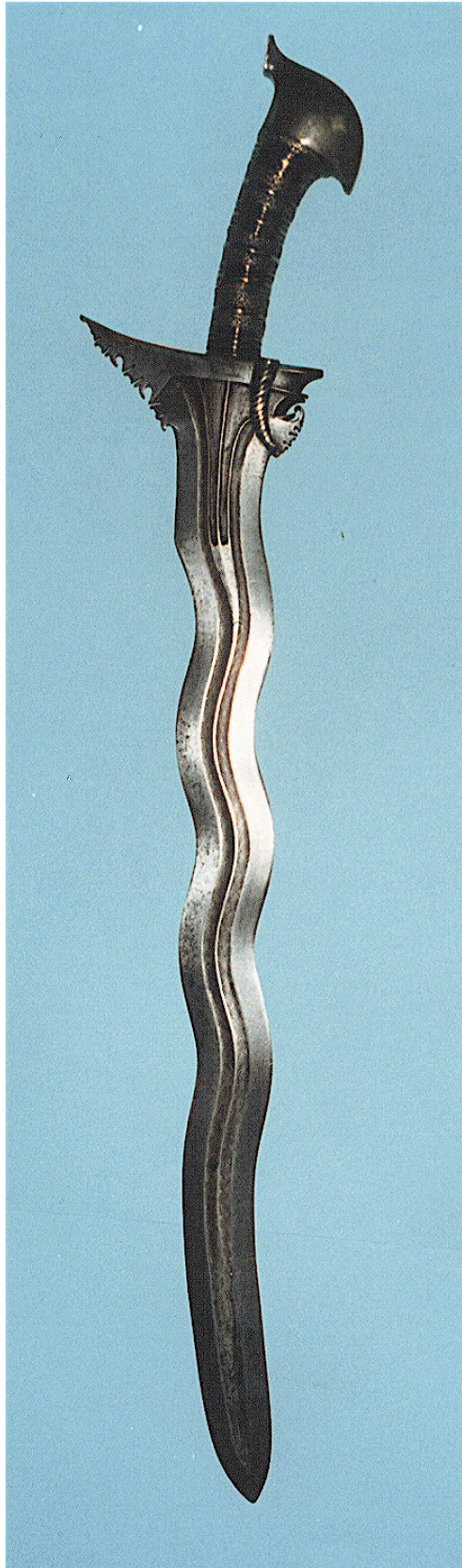


Fig 235) *Datu Moro-kris.*

Hilt: Stylized cockatoo in pewter - *Danganan* style. The grip is covered with alternating rings in *Suasa* and plaited silver wire. The hilt is fastened to the blade with a single silver clamp (*Baca Baca*) decorated with a winding pattern.

Blade: Dapor Sundang Seko, 7 Lok.

Pamor: Blarak Ngirid in the middle of the blade. An old type of blade with distinctive waves and *Pamor* in the middle of the blade.

Area: Sulu Islands/Mindanao.

Date: 18th century.

Private collection.

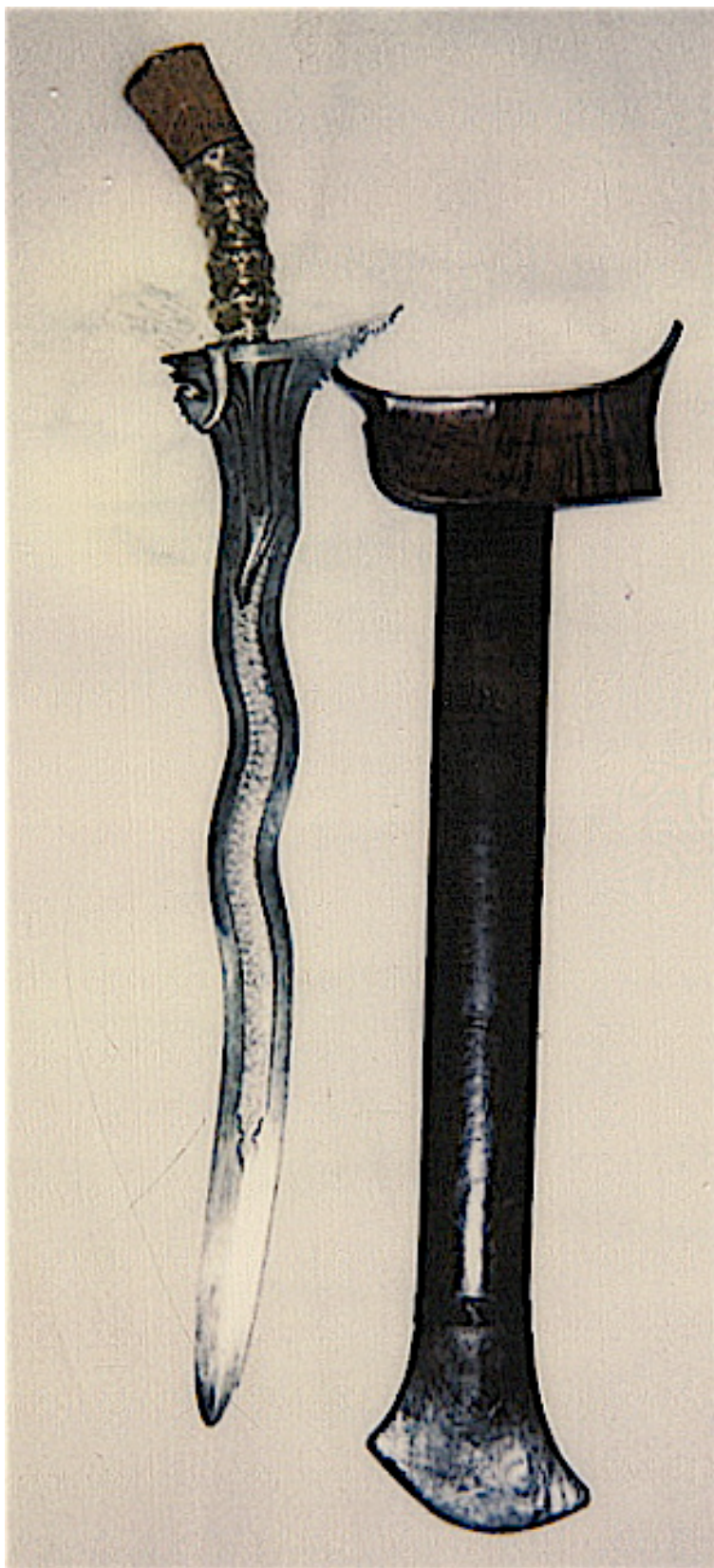


Fig 236). *Datu Moro-kris*. State kris.

Hilt: Horse's Hoof shaped top in ivory decorated with *Okir* motifs and Arab inscriptions. Grip covered with *Okir* decorated golden rings. The hilt is fastened to the blade with a single steel clamp (*Baca Baca*).

Blade: Dapor Sundang Ranti, 5 lok.

Pamor: Blarak Ngirid in the middle of the blade. Old type of blade.

Sheath: *Ladrang* style with a big flat *Buntut*.

Area: Sulu Islands/Mindanao.

Date: 18th century.

Private collection.



Fig 236 a). *Datu Moro-kris*. State kris.

Hilt: Horse's Hoof shaped top in ivory decorated with *Okir* motifs (see Fig 236). The grip covered with alternate rings in plaited silver wire and silver rings. The hilt is fastened to the blade with a single silver clamp (*Baca Baca*)²⁷.

Blade: Dapor Sundang Espada.

Pamor: Blarak Ngirid? in the middle of the blade. Old type of blade.

Sheath: *Ladrang* style with oval *Buntut* in wood.

Area: Sulu Islands/Mindanao.

Date: 18th century.

Private collection.

²⁷ The same type of kris is found in Etnografisch Museum Antwerpen. Frank Herreman: Etnografisch Museum Antwerpen, Brussel 1991, p 7.



Fig 237) Moro battle-kris.

Hilt: Horse's Hoof shaped hilt in wood covered with silver rings and sheets and wound with silver wire in an intricate pattern to fasten the silver sheets and rings to the hilt. An old repair. The hilt is fastened to the blade with a single silver clamp (*Baca Baca*).
Blade: Dapor Sundang Seko, 11 lok.

Length of the blade: 57 cm.

Area: Sulu Islands/Mindanao.
Date: 19th century.
Private collection.



Fig 238) Moro-kris, Sundang.

Hilt: Horse's Hoof top in wood. The grip is covered with jute twine. Aluminium ring at the bottom of the hilt. Two aluminium clamps (*Baca Baca*) fastens the hilt to the blade.

Blade: Dapor Sundang Seko, 13 Lok.

Pamor: Beras Wutah

Length of the blade: 58,5 cm.

Sheath: Crescent shaped (*Gambar-Tanggala*) type. The *Gambar* is decorated with inlaid mother of pearl and the *Gandar* with rotang binding. *Buntut* in wood decorated with inlaid mother of pearl.

Area: Sulu Islands/Mindanao.

Date: 20th century. The aluminium is most possible taken from aeroplanes that were shot down during the Second World War.

Private collection.



Fig 239)

Moro kris - Sundang - battle kris.

Hilt: The pommel in wood is bent a little forward.

The grip is covered with rattan binding. There is a silver ferrule at the bottom and a silver ring at the top of the grip.

Blade: Dapor Ranti, 5 Lok. The blade is silver inlaid with “*Sisinga Solaiman*” = the ring of Solomon²⁸ and scrolled *Okir* motifs inlaid in brass. (See Fig 232 b)

Pamor: ?

Length of the blade: 56 cm

Sheath: A typical *Maguindanao* type without *Gambar*. The *Gandar* has rotang bindings.

Area: Mindanao (the Maguindanao area).

Date: 19th century.

Private collection.

²⁸ The ring of *Solomon*. The Moros venerated *Solomon* as a prophet and wise man. The purpose of the mark is to protect the holder of the *Sundang*. Robert Cato: *Moro Swords*. Singapore 1996, p 102.



Fig 240) Moro-kris, Sundang.

Hilt: A stylized cockatoo in wood - *Danganan* style. The grip is covered with plaited jute cord. There is a silver ring at the end of the grip. The hilt is fastened to the blade with a silver clamp (*Baca Baca*).

Blade: Dapor Sundang Seko, 23 Lok.

Pamor: None?

Length of the blade: 54 cm

Sheath: A typical *Maguindanao* type without *Gambar*.

The *Gandar* decorated with metal rings

Area: Mindanao (Maguindanao area).

Date: First half of the 19th century.

Private collection.



Fig 241)

Moro kris - Sundang.

Hilt: Stylized cockatoo in ivory - *Danganan* style.

The grip is covered with alternating rings in silver, brass and copper.

Blade: Dapor Sundang Seko, 15 Lok. A single silver clam (*Baca Baca*) fastens the hilt to the blade. (The blade is from the *Maranao* area of *Mindanao*).

Pamor : ?

Length of the blade: 58 cm

Sheath: *Tanggah* style decorated with *Okir* motifs on the *Gambar*. The *Gandar* is decorated with metal rings. Metal *Buntut*. The angular shape of the *Gambar* indicates that it comes from *Mindanao*.

Area: *Maranao* in *Mindanao*.

Date: 19th century.

Private collection.



Fig 242)

Moro kris - Sundang - battle kris.

Hilt: The flat pommel in wood is bent a little forward. The grip is covered with alternately arranged jute twine and silver bands.

Blade: Dapor Sundang Espada. A single silver clam (*Baca Baca*) fastens the hilt to the blade.

Pamor: ?

Length of the blade: 61 cm

Sheath: Crescent shaped type (*Gambar-Tanggala*). The angular shape at the bottom of the *Gambar* indicates that it comes from *Mindanao* (*Maguindanao* area). The *Gandar* has two rotang bindings.

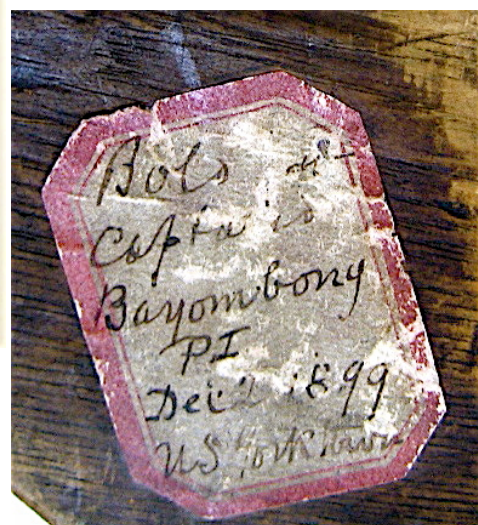
Area: Mindanao (*Maguindanao* area)

Date: 19th century.

On an old label on the sheath is written: "Bolo captured Bayombong PI (Philippine Islands) 1899 US Yorktown."²⁹

The name US Yorktown most probably refers to a US Navy ship.

Private collection.



²⁹ USA conquered the Philippines from the Spaniards during the Spanish-American War (1898) and put an end to the hegemony of the Moros in the following years.

Barung

A weapon that has the same kind of hilt (*Puhan*) as the *Sundang* is the *Barung*. The pommel of the *Barung* represents the *cockatoo*, too, but in a more slim version. Hilts in ivory, silver and rare woods were restricted to the *Datu* class as ceremonial weapons, while the hilts in wood (*Banati* wood) were for the middle-class, and those with a very simple design are found on working/fighting *Barungs*. The *Barung* is only used by the Moros in the *Sulu Sultanate*. It is a rather short weapon, but a weapon with a formidable blow, which is said to be able to cleave a man in two parts in one blow.



Fig 243) *Datu Barung*.

Hilt: Stylized cockatoo in ivory. The grip is covered with rings in silver and plaited silver wire - at the end of the grip a *Suasa* ring.

Blade: Single edged and pointed.

Length of the blade: 40,8 cm.

Area: The Sulu Sultanate. The South Philippines.

Date: 19th century

Private collection.



Fig 244) *Datu Barung*.

Hilt : Covered in silver and *Suasa* decorated with *Okir* motifs.

Blade: Single edged and pointed.

Length of the blade: 42 cm.

Area: The Sulu Sultanate. The South Philippines

Date: 19th century.

Private collection.