



K O N I N K L I J K E N E D E R L A N D S E
A K A D E M I E V A N W E T E N S C H A P P E N

Provenance report regarding Staatsiekris - Keris

Quist, Tom

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Provenance report regarding Staatsiekris - Keris

Tom Quist

	Custodian	NMVW Museum Volkenkunde
	Current possessor	Dutch State
	Inventory number	RV-360-8082
	Material/technique	Iron, nickel, gold, diamond, wood
	Measurements	Length: 51 cm Length of blade: 39.5 cm Length of sheath: 43.5 cm

Photo: Collection Nationaal Museum van Wereldculturen, inv.no. RV-360-8082

Summary of findings

The ceremonial kris with object number RV-360-8082 has a hilt which is characteristic of kris hilts of the Surakarta Sunanate. It has been assumed that the weapon dates from the reign of Susuhunan Pakubuwono IV (r. 1788-1820). Further research into the object characteristics in collaboration with Indonesian kris experts may be able to establish whether the kris was indeed manufactured in Surakarta during this period. The weapon has always been considered to have been a gift to the Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden from Jean Chrétien Baud, gouverneur-generaal ad interim of the Dutch East Indies from 1833 to 1836. However, the provenance research in primary and secondary sources revealed that the kris did not come from Baud. Other than the fact that the object is mentioned in documents from 1876-1879 in the archive of the Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden, no further provenance information was found. That means that it remains unclear when prior to 1876 the item found its way into the collection of the Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden, before being transferred to Museum Volkenkunde in 1883. Since then the ceremonial kris has been in the collection of Museum Volkenkunde, which has been part of the National Museum of World Cultures since 2014.

Reconstruction provenance

< 1876 - 1883

Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden, The Hague

NL-HlmNHA, 476, inv.no. 915, list of descriptions of objects in the collection of the Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden, undated [c. 29 January 1876].

1883 - present

NMVW Museum Volkenkunde, Leiden

NL-HlmNHA, 476, inv.no. 875, Inventory of art and other objects. Also comprising the Van Overmeer Fisscher collection, 1877-1878.

Introduction and context

This report describes the results of provenance research into a ceremonial kris in the collection of Museum Volkenkunde, part of the National Museum of World Cultures (NMVW). The research was carried out by NMVW in the spring and summer of 2020. The ceremonial kris is registered in the Museum Volkenkunde collection under number RV-360-8082. The weapon comes from the Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden, a former royal collection of historical and ethnographic objects from all continents of the world.¹ When the Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden was dissolved in 1883 the kris was transferred to Museum Volkenkunde.² According to the object record of RV-360-8082 in The Museum System (TMS), the NMVW's collection management system, the kris was donated to the Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden by Jean Chrétien Baud (1789-1859), gouverneur-generaal ad interim of the Dutch East Indies from 1833 to 1836.³ At present the kris is on display in the Tropenmuseum as part of the semi-permanent exhibition, *What's the Story*.

The ceremonial kris has a wavy blade, the lower part of which is decorated with gold on both sides. The decorations consist of foliage and Arabic inscriptions, which continue onto the collar guard of the blade. The inscriptions are a succession of *tasbih* (praises) to Allah, each one using one of His 99 Beautiful Names.⁴ In addition to the decorations in gold the blade features *памор*, patterns in shades of grey created by welding together iron and nickel alloy.⁵ On the bottom of the collar guard of the blade several diamonds are visible. Object descriptions of RV-360-8082 on two inventory cards of Museum Volkenkunde state that these are six large and six small diamonds.⁶ The wooden hilt of the kris is slightly curved and has the shape of a column. The concave side bears carvings in two places. A small knob can also be seen on the end of the hilt. These characteristics are typical of kris hilts of the

¹ The Museum System (TMS, NMVW collection management system), series RV-360.

² In 1883 the museum was still known as Rijks Ethnographisch Museum. For reasons of clarity and consistency, this provenance report only uses the name Museum Volkenkunde.
Rudolf Effert, *Volkenkundig Verzamelen. Het Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden en het Rijks Ethnographisch Museum, 1816-1883* (Leiden 2003) 11; Museum Volkenkunde (NL-LdnRMV), Archive series 360 (unarranged), documents 'Serie 360,' 26 September 1966 and undated.

³ TMS, object record RV-360-8082; National Archives of the Netherlands (NL-HaNA), archival finding aid 2.21.007.58: J.C. Baron Baud [1789-1859] and relatives, (1585) 1804-1985, archive inventory, pp. 57-70, http://www.gahetna.nl/archievenoverzicht/pdf/NL-HaNA_2.21.007.58.ead.pdf, consulted on 9 September 2020.

⁴ With thanks to Mirjam Shatanawi for providing this information.

⁵ Edward Frey, *The Kris. Mystic Weapon of the Malay World* (Oxford 1988) 31.

⁶ TMS, object record RV-360-8082. It was not possible to verify this information during the research as the ceremonial kris was not available for physical examination due to the arrangement of the exhibition, *What's the Story*.

Surakarta Sunanate.⁷ The wooden sheath of the weapon comes with a sleeve, one side of which is decorated with engraved leaves and floral motifs. The other side of the sleeve is largely smooth with only the tip having similar decorations.



Photos: Collection Nationaal Museum van Wereldculturen. Inv.no. RV-360-8082.

Provenance report

The provenance research started out by looking at whether Baud donated one or several objects to the Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden during his lifetime. A letter in the archive of the Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden, which is held in the North Holland Archives in Haarlem, shows that items belonging to Baud did indeed end up in this royal collection. The letter in question, dated 16 April 1835, is from the minister van Binnenlandse Zaken and addressed to the director of the

⁷ Frey, *The Kris*, 47, 49; David van Duuren, *De kris. Een aardse benadering van een kosmisch symbool* (Amsterdam 1996) 41, 48.

Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden, Reinier Pieter van de Kastele (1767-1845).⁸ It informs the director that along with the letter he is to receive five krisses and a walking stick, which Baud had been gifted by local rulers during a recent tour of inspection of Java and Madura.

Baud made the tour of inspection referred to in the letter from May to mid-August 1834.⁹ The main purpose of the tour of Java and Madura was to establish whether the cultivation system, introduced in 1830 by Baud's predecessor Johannes van den Bosch (1780-1844), was functioning in accordance with the wishes of the Dutch administration.¹⁰ Under the cultivation system the Javanese population was forced to reserve a proportion of their land for the cultivation of crops for the European market. The system led to extensive exploitation of the population whilst generating huge revenues for the Dutch treasury.¹¹

Baud started his tour of inspection in Batavia. Following a stay in Bandung in West Java, the tour took him through various places on the north coast. Once he reached Central Java, Baud headed inland again, visiting places including Yogyakarta and Surakarta in June. The tour then continued to East Java, from where he crossed to Madura. After returning to Java he headed from Surabaya along the north coast back to Batavia.¹²

During his tour Baud visited the Yogyakarta Sultanate, the Surakarta Sunanate and several rulers on Madura. It is clear from documents in the Baud family archive and the archives of the ministries van Binnenlandse Zaken and Koloniën, which are held in the National Archives, that various gifts were exchanged during these encounters,¹³ as was customary during visits by the gouverneur-generaal to rulers' courts.¹⁴ In Yogyakarta the gouverneur-generaal was offered gifts including five horses and a pilgrim's staff which had belonged to Pangeran Diponegoro.¹⁵ In 2015 descendants of Baud restituted the pilgrim's staff to Indonesia, where the object has been placed in the collection of Museum Nasional Indonesia.¹⁶ Furthermore Baud was given 13 spears by various rulers during his tour. The spear rack that holds the spears together has been in the Rijksmuseum since 1959, on loan from the Baud family.¹⁷ In addition to the spears the gouverneur-generaal accepted five krisses and a

⁸ North Holland Archives (NL-HlmNHA), archival finding aid 476: Rijksmuseum and legal predecessors in Amsterdam, inventory number 847: Documents concerning the transfer of art and other objects, gifted to the king and other persons or purchased by him, 1830-1859, letter from the minister van Binnenlandse Zaken to the Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden, 16 April 1835, <http://noord-hollandsarchief.nl/bronnen/archieven?mivast=236&mizig=210&miadt=236&miaet=1&micode=476&minr=2198099&miview=inv2> (image 9), consulted on 14 October 2020; Effert, *Volkenkundig Verzamelen*, 34; <http://www.biografischportaal.nl/persoon/22567417>, consulted on 8 February 2021.

⁹ S. van Deventer Jsz., *Bijdragen tot de kennis van het landelijk stelsel op Java. Tweede deel. De werking van het stelsel, 1819-1836* (Zaltbommel 1866) 620-689.

¹⁰ Pauline Lunsingh Scheurleer, "Prince Dipanagara's Pilgrim's Staff," *Archipel* 97 (2019) 87-112, *ibid.* 87; Biografisch portaal van Nederland. "Johannes van den Bosch." <http://www.biografischportaal.nl/persoon/18152873>, consulted on 8 February 2021.

¹¹ Lunsingh Scheurleer, "Prince Dipanagara's Pilgrim's Staff," 87; M.C. Ricklefs, *A History of Modern Indonesia since c. 1200* (Basingstoke 2001) 156.

¹² Van Deventer Jsz., *Bijdragen tot de kennis van het landelijk stelsel op Java*, 620-689.

¹³ NL-HaNA, 2.04.01: Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken (1813-1848), inv.nos. 4616-4617: Notes verbales: decrees, minutes of outgoing letters and incoming documents, 2 March - 23 April 1835; 2.10.01: Ministerie van Koloniën (1814-1849), inv.nos. 965, 967 and 969: Notes verbales with appendices, kept since 1 April 1818 by the minister van Koloniën, 13-18 March, 26-31 March and 8-11 April 1835; 2.21.007.58, inv.nos. 348 and 350, Copies of Cabinet letters from Baud, 2-30 June 1834 and 1-31 August 1834.

¹⁴ Vincent J.H. Houben, *Kraton and Kumpeni. Surakarta and Yogyakarta 1830-1870* (Leiden 1994) 158.

¹⁵ Houben, *Kraton and Kumpeni*, 158; Lunsingh Scheurleer, "Prince Dipanagara's Pilgrim's Staff," 88.

¹⁶ Lunsingh Scheurleer, "Prince Dipanagara's Pilgrim's Staff," 89.

¹⁷ Rijksmuseum, "Lansenrek van gouverneur-generaal J.C. Baud," object number NG-BR-554. See the Rijksmuseum collection website: <http://hdl.handle.net/10934/RM0001.COLLECT.337418>, consulted on 19 October 2020.

walking stick, according to a letter he wrote to the minister van Koloniën Van den Bosch on 20 October 1834.¹⁸

In his letter to the minister van Koloniën Baud states exactly which rulers he had received the krisses and walking stick from, and also gives a general description of the weapons. The first two krisses had come from Susuhunan Pakubuwono VII of Surakarta (1796-1858) and Pangeran Mangkunegara II of Mangkunegaran (1768-1836), also belonging to the dominion of Surakarta.¹⁹ Both weapons are described as “set around with diamonds.”²⁰ The third kris had been gifted by Pangeran Paku Alam II of Pakualaman (1786-1858), which lies within the borders of Yogyakarta.²¹ The fourth kris with “small jewels” had been a gift from Sultan Paku Nataningrat of Sumenep (r. 1811-1854) on Madura,²² while Baud had been given the final kris and the walking stick by Panembahan Mangku Adiningrat of Pamekasan (r. 1804-1842), also on Madura.²³ After providing this list, from which it also transpires that all the krisses came with a gold sheath, the gouverneur-generaal explains why he has chosen to ship the items to the Netherlands. Baud writes to the minister that it is customary for such gifts to be sold at public auction to generate revenue for the government. However, he believes there is a good chance that this would result in the objects ending up back in Yogyakarta, Surakarta, and Madura and that “this would certainly create an unpleasant impression on the local rulers.”²⁴ Baud therefore decided to have the krisses and walking stick shipped to the Netherlands “either to be sold there or to be kept in the Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden.”²⁵ He leaves the choice of the precise destination of the objects up to the minister.

The letter from Baud is a copy, the original of which was not found in the archive of the ministerie van Koloniën during the provenance research. The duplicate does note which ship the original and the accompanying objects were brought to the Netherlands on. It was the barque *Jacobus*, which according to the shipping news section of the *Javasche Courant* left Batavia for Rotterdam on 13 November 1834.²⁶ Several months later the *Utrechtse Courant* reported the arrival of the *Jacobus* in Hellevoetsluis on 13 March 1835.²⁷ Three days later the minister van Koloniën decided to forward the letter and the items from Baud to King William I of the Netherlands (1772-1843) “for inspection and further decision.”²⁸ His answer was not long in coming: on 18 March the secretaris van staat

¹⁸ NL-HaNA, 2.10.01, inv.no. 967, incoming letter from J.C. Baud to the minister van Koloniën, 20 October 1834.

¹⁹ Wikipedia. “Pakubuwana VII.” https://id.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakubuwana_VII and “Mangkunegara II.” https://id.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mangkunegara_II, consulted on 3 February 2021; Wikimedia. “File:Mataram 1830-en.png.” https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mataram_1830-en.png, consulted on 19 October 2020.

²⁰ “Omzet met diamanten.” See: NL-HaNA, 2.10.01, inv.no. 967, incoming letter from J.C. Baud to the minister van Koloniën, 20 October 1834.

²¹ Wikipedia. “Paku Alam II.” https://id.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paku_Alam_II, consulted on 3 February 2021; Wikimedia. “File:Mataram 1830-en.png.” https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mataram_1830-en.png, consulted on 19 October 2020.

²² “Juweeltjes.” See: NL-HaNA, 2.10.01, inv.no. 967, incoming letter from J.C. Baud to the minister van Koloniën, 20 October 1834.

²³ Wikipedia. “List of monarchs of Java.” https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_monarchs_of_Java, consulted on 3 February 2021.

²⁴ “Dit bij de vorsten aldáár, voorzeker eenen onaangenamen indruk zou te weeg brengen.” See: NL-HaNA, 2.10.01, inv.no. 967, incoming letter from J.C. Baud to the minister van Koloniën, 20 October 1834.

²⁵ “Om, hetzij, aldáár verkocht, dan wel in het Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden bewaard te worden.” See: NL-HaNA, 2.10.01, inv.no. 967, incoming letter from J.C. Baud to the minister van Koloniën, 20 October 1834.

²⁶ Royal Library of the Netherlands (KB), Delpher, *Javasche Courant*, 19 November 1834, p. 8, section “*Scheepsberigten*” [shipping news], <https://resolver.kb.nl/resolve?urn=ddd:010502869:mpeg21:a0019>, consulted on 19 October 2020.

²⁷ KB, Delpher, *Utrechtse Courant*, 16 March 1835, p. 2, section “*Nederlanden*,” <https://resolver.kb.nl/resolve?urn=ddd:010808015:mpeg21:a0020>, consulted on 19 October 2020.

²⁸ “Ter bezigtiging, en verdere beschikking.” See: NL-HaNA, 2.10.01, inv.no. 965, Notes verbales 16 March 1835, np. 27 (minuted version); <http://www.biografischportaal.nl/persoon/01504879>, consulted on 8 February 2021.

informed the minister that the king wished to receive further advice on the destination of the gifted objects, possibly following consultation with the minister van Binnenlandse Zaken.²⁹ The minister van Koloniën thereupon contacted his fellow minister,³⁰ who advised him on 2 April. The minister van Binnenlandse Zaken explained that the Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden already included a number of Javanese krisses. He stated that the objects therefore “cannot be considered absolutely necessary” for the collection.³¹ At the same time the minister van Binnenlandse Zaken was unable to think of another suitable collection, and so his advice was to house the krisses and the walking stick in the Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden. The minister van Koloniën subsequently informed the king that he agreed with this proposal,³² with the king then giving his approval in a letter signed by him on 15 April.³³ The objects were transferred to the Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden the following day.

This confirms that the five krisses and the walking stick presented to Baud during his tour of inspection in 1834 were transferred to the Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden in 1835. The question now is whether the ceremonial kris with object number RV-360-8082 was one of the two weapons from Surakarta mentioned by Baud in his letter of 20 October 1834. Provenance research has revealed that this is most probably not the case. Firstly Baud describes the krisses given to him by Susuhunan Pakubuwono VII of Surakarta and Pangeran Mangkunegara II as being “set around with diamonds,” by which he presumably meant that diamonds were applied all around the kris hilts. By contrast, RV-360-8082 only features diamonds on the bottom of the collar guard of the blade.

A second indicator comes from a note added at a later date to the letter of 16 April 1835 from the minister van Binnenlandse Zaken to the director of the Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden. The note consists of the numbers 8 up to and including 12 which can be seen in the top left-hand corner.³⁴ The numbers correspond with numbered object descriptions on a list in the archive of the Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden.³⁵ This document was compiled in 1876 by the then director, Abraham Anne van de Kastele (1814-1893).³⁶ The list contains weapons from the Dutch East Indies selected by Van de Kastele at the behest of King William III of the Netherlands (1817-1890)³⁷ for the

²⁹ NL-HaNA, 2.10.01, inv.no. 967, incoming letter from the secretary of state to the minister van Koloniën, 18 March 1835.

³⁰ NL-HaNA, 2.04.01, inv.no. 4616, incoming letter from the minister van Koloniën to the minister van Binnenlandse Zaken, 26 March 1835.

³¹ “Niet als volstrekt noodzakelijk kunnen worden aangemerkt.” See: NL-HaNA, 2.10.01, inv.no. 969, incoming letter from the minister van Binnenlandse Zaken to the minister van Koloniën, 2 April 1835.

³² Ibid., notes verbales 10 April 1835, no. 5 (minuted version).

³³ Ibid., 2.04.01, inv.no. 4617, incoming letter from King William I to the departments of Binnenlandse Zaken and Koloniën, 15 April 1835.

³⁴ NL-HlmNHA, 476, inv.no. 847, letter from the minister van Binnenlandse Zaken to the director of the Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden, 16 April 1835, <http://noord-hollandsarchief.nl/bronnen/archieven?mivast=236&mizig=210&miaet=236&miaet=1&micode=476&minr=2198099&miview=inv2> (image 9), consulted on 20 October 2020.

³⁵ Ibid., inv.no. 915: Documents concerning the ending of loans of art and other objects granted to private individuals and institutions, 1816-1876, list of descriptions of objects in the collection of the Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden, undated [c. 29 January 1876], <https://hdl.handle.net/21.12102/A44089BFD40B4DCD848395D6C9B93727> (images 84-86), consulted on 20 October 2020.

³⁶ Effert, *Volkenkundig Verzamelen*, 34; Biografisch portaal van Nederland. “Abraham Anne van de Kastele.” <http://www.biografischportaal.nl/persoon/74540752>, consulted on 8 February 2021.

³⁷ Biografisch portaal van Nederland. “Willem III van Oranje-Nassau.” <http://www.biografischportaal.nl/persoon/33434582>, consulted on 8 February 2021.

Dutch pavilion at the 1876 World Fair, the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia.³⁸ Numbers 8 to 12 on the list are described as krisses which had been gifted to Baud. At first sight the description of the eighth weapon would appear to match the object characteristics of RV-360-8082, given that it is described as “A gold kris, worked in relief, with wooden hilt, and an inscription on the blade, gifted by an East Indian ruler to Mr Baud, gouverneur-generaal ad interim of the Dutch East Indies.”³⁹ However, the collection of the Rijksmuseum contains a kris whose object characteristics better match the description above. This kris with object number NG-NM-7113 is the one that Baud received during his tour from the Panembahan of Pamekasan.⁴⁰ On one side of the blade, which features *pamor*, there is written in gold letters: “To His Excellency the gouverneur-generaal ad interim of the Dutch East Indies J.C. Baud.”⁴¹ The other side states the name of the giver, Panembahan Mangku Adiningrat of Pamekasan. The kris with wooden hilt comes from the Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden and following the dissolution in 1883 was transferred to the Nederlandsch Museum van Geschiedenis en Kunst, which was subsumed into the Rijksmuseum in the 1920s.⁴²

In summary, while the eighth weapon listed by Van de Kastele bears the closest resemblance to the object characteristics of RV-360-8082, the description in all likelihood relates to the kris with object number NG-NM-7113 in the collection of the Rijksmuseum. Moreover, number 14 on the list is a perfect match with the object characteristics of RV-360-8082. This is “A gold kris, with wooden hilt, the blade decorated with diamonds and inscriptions, the sheath with an engraved border.”⁴³ Not only does RV-360-8082 have a wooden hilt and gold inscriptions and diamonds on the bottom of the collar guard of the blade, the ceremonial kris does indeed have an “engraved border” on the largely smooth side of the sleeve. All in all it is therefore highly likely that RV-360-8082 has a different provenance than has been assumed to date. The description of the fourteenth weapon on Van de Kastele’s list does not mention any former owner or owners, however, although it is likely that

³⁸ NL-HlmNHA, 476, inv.no. 915, letter from the minister van Binnenlandse Zaken to the director of the Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden, 26 January 1876, <https://hdl.handle.net/21.12102/A44089BFD40B4DCD848395D6C9B93727> (image 79), consulted on 28 October 2020; NL-HaNA, 2.04.13: Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken: Afdeling Kunsten en Wetenschappen (1875-1918), inv.no. 1952: Documents concerning the separation of the collection of the Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden, etc., 1876-1887, letter from the director of the Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden to the minister van Binnenlandse Zaken, 29 January 1876; Lieske Tibbe, ‘Holland op z’n mooist in Amerika, de Wereldtentoonstelling van 1876 in Philadelphia’, *De Negentiende Eeuw* 40:4 (2016), 334-350, *ibid.* 335-336.

³⁹ ‘Een gouden Krits, en rélief bewerkt, met houten gevest, en eene Inscriptie op het lemmet, door eenen Indischen Vorst aan den Heer Baud, Gouverneur . Genl . ad int^m van Ned. Indie, vereerd’. See: NL-HlmNHA, 476, inv.no. 915, list of descriptions of objects in the collection of the Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden, undated [c. 29 January 1876], <https://hdl.handle.net/21.12102/A44089BFD40B4DCD848395D6C9B93727> (image 85), consulted on 20 October 2020; ‘Afdeeling Nederland der Internationale Tentoonstelling van Voortbrengselen van Kunst en Nijverheid en van de Producten van den Landbouw enz. te Philadelphia. 1876. Officieele Catalogus, Uitgegeven op Last van de Hoofdc commissie’ (Amsterdam 1876) 157, <http://hdl.handle.net/1887.1/item:1047415>, consulted on 4 February 2021.

⁴⁰ Rijksmuseum, ‘Kris van gouverneur-generaal Baud’, object number NG-NM-7113. See the Rijksmuseum collection website: <http://hdl.handle.net/10934/RM0001.COLLECT.241271>, consulted on 20 October 2020.

⁴¹ ‘Aan Z.E: den Gouv^{er}. Gen. ad. int over. Ned^l. Indie J.C: Baud’. See: Rijksmuseum, ‘Kris van gouverneur-generaal Baud’, object number NG-NM-7113, <http://hdl.handle.net/10934/RM0001.COLLECT.241271>, consulted on 20 October 2020.

⁴² TMS, object record RV-360-8081 (virtual object); NL-HlmNHA, 476, preface to archive inventory, <https://hdl.handle.net/21.12102/01644F687DD84B309BF24360FD2B2A25>, consulted on 20 October 2020.

⁴³ ‘Een gouden Krits, met houten gevest, het lemmet met diamanten en inscriptien versierd, de scheede met gegraveerde rand’. See: NL-HlmNHA, 476, inv.no. 915, list of descriptions of objects in the collection of the Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden, undated [c. 29 January 1876], <https://hdl.handle.net/21.12102/A44089BFD40B4DCD848395D6C9B93727> (image 85), consulted on 20 October 2020; ‘Afdeeling Nederland der Internationale Tentoonstelling [...]’ 158, <http://hdl.handle.net/1887.1/item:1047415>, consulted on 4 February 2021.

RV-360-8082 is one of the weapons from the collection of the Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden which were on display at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia from May to November 1876.⁴⁴

The research in primary and secondary sources did not reveal any information that could help unravel the further provenance history of the ceremonial kris. For example, descriptions of other krisses from Surakarta in the archive of the Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden do not provide a match with the object characteristics of RV-360-8082.⁴⁵ A possible lead for further research is provided by the publication *Koninklijke geschenken uit Indonesië* by Rita Wassing-Visser, in which she states that according to batik and kris expert Go Tik Swan (1931-1986)⁴⁶ the kris was manufactured during the reign of Pakubuwono IV (1768-1820), who reigned as Susuhunan of Surakarta from 1788 to 1820.⁴⁷

Finally, the provenance research was able to explain why RV-360-8082 had been attributed to Baud up until now. The answer to this question lies in the inventory books of the Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden, which were compiled in 1876-1879 by acting director David van der Kellen, Jr. (1827-1895).⁴⁸ When Van der Kellen, Jr. took up the position in 1876 he found that his predecessor Van de Kastele had neglected the management of the collection in every respect. For example objects in the collection had not been numbered and many archive records were missing. In compiling the inventory Van der Kellen, Jr. therefore drew on those documents that he did find, such as donation letters.⁴⁹

Presumably this is also what Van der Kellen, Jr. did in the case of the five krisses and the walking stick from Baud. Number 8081 in the inventory relates to the weapon gifted by the Panembahan of Pamekasan which was assigned to the Nederlandsch Museum van Geschiedenis en Kunst when the Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden was dissolved in 1883.⁵⁰ The inscriptions on the blade must have made it easy for Van der Kellen, Jr. to identify this item as one of the krisses from Baud. In the draft version of the inventory which is held in the North Holland Archives Van der Kellen, Jr. has indeed noted after number 8081 that the kris was a gift from Panembahan Mangku Adiningrat of

⁴⁴ 'Verslag aan Zijne excellentie den Minister van Binnenlandsche Zaken over de Nederlandsche Afdeeling op de Internationale Tentoonstelling gehouden te Philadelphia, van 10 mei tot 10 november 1876, uitgebracht door de Nederlandsche Hoofdcommissie, gevolgd door de Officieele Lijst der Bekroonde Nederlandsche Inzenders' (Haarlem 1877), <http://hdl.handle.net/1887.1/item:1046255>, consulted on 20 October 2020.

⁴⁵ NL-HlmNHA, 476, inv.nos. 846-847, Documents concerning the transfer of art and other objects, gifted to the king and other persons or purchased by him, 1816-1859, <http://noord-hollandsarchief.nl/bronnen/archieven?mivast=236&mizig=210&miadt=236&miaet=1&micode=476&minr=2198098&miview=inv2> (images 11-13, 28) and <http://noord-hollandsarchief.nl/bronnen/archieven?mivast=236&mizig=210&miadt=236&miaet=1&micode=476&minr=2198099&miview=inv2> (images 2, 12, 23, 30-31), both consulted on 20 October 2020.

⁴⁶ Go Tik Swan is also known by his later adopted Javanese name K.R.T. Hardjonagoro. See: <https://www.thejakartapost.com/life/2017/10/02/preserving-go-tik-swan-batik-legacy.html>; <https://id.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hardjonagoro>, both consulted on 20 October 2020.

⁴⁷ Rita Wassing-Visser, *Koninklijke geschenken uit Indonesië. Historische banden met het Huis Oranje-Nassau (1600-1938)* (Zwolle 1995) 64; Peter Carey, *The power of prophecy. Prince Dipanagara and the end of an old order in Java, 1785-1855* (Leiden 2007) 36; https://id.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakubuwana_IV, consulted on 8 February 2021.

⁴⁸ RKD (Nederlands Instituut voor Kunstgeschiedenis). "David van der Kellen (III)." <https://rkd.nl/nl/explore/artists/43780>, consulted on 8 February 2021.

⁴⁹ Effert, *Volkenkundig Verzamelen*, 62, 212-216.

⁵⁰ NL-HaNA, 2.04.13, inv.no. 1962, Inventory of the objects belonging to the Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden, 1879, Part II, folio number 142.

Pamekasan, followed by the note “along with four others? Gift from the gouverneur-generaal.”⁵¹ Behind number 8082 is written “probably as above.”⁵² In a second draft version of the inventory in the archive of Museum Volkenkunde these notes are no longer present.⁵³ However, there is a note by number 8082 which says: “Along with four others? Gift from gouverneur-generaal Baud.”⁵⁴ It would therefore seem that in his second draft inventory Van der Kellen, Jr. wrote this note behind number 8082 by mistake, whereas the information in fact relates to number 8081. In the final version of the inventory which is kept in the National Archives, the same note can also be found after number 8082.⁵⁵

When the ethnographic objects in the collection of the Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden were registered under serial number 360 in the collection of Museum Volkenkunde in 1883 the inventory numbering assigned by Van der Kellen, Jr. was maintained. The descriptions from the inventory were also copied over onto inventory cards of series 360, which since the arrival of the digital era are part of the relevant object records in TMS.⁵⁶ This explains why RV-360-8082 has been registered as a gift from Baud ever since it was acquired in 1883.

⁵¹ “Met 4 anderen? Geschenk v. d. Gouv. Gen..” See: NL-HlmNHA, 476, inv.no. 875: Inventory of art and other objects. Including amongst others the Van Overmeer Fisscher collection, 1877-1878, <http://noord-hollandsarchief.nl/bronnen/archieven?mivast=236&mizig=210&miadt=236&miaet=1&micode=476&minr=2198140&miview=inv2> (image. 215), consulted on 21 October 2020.

⁵² “Waarschijnlijk als boven.” See: NL-HlmNHA, 476, inv.no. 875, <http://noord-hollandsarchief.nl/bronnen/archieven?mivast=236&mizig=210&miadt=236&miaet=1&micode=476&minr=2198140&miview=inv2> (image. 215), consulted on 21 October 2020.

⁵³ The North Holland Archives has photocopies of the draft inventory in the archive of Museum Volkenkunde and dates this version to 1878-1882. The draft version of the inventory managed by the archive itself in Haarlem is dated to 1876-1878. See: NL-HlmNHA, 476, inv.nos. 874-877, Inventories of art and other objects, 1876-1878 and 1878-1882, <https://hdl.handle.net/21.12102/A5D8B3A5A6874C0FB01B53DA8F645CE1>, consulted on 21 October 2020.

⁵⁴ “Met 4 anderen? Geschenk v. den Gouvern. Gener. Baud.” See: NL-LdnRMV, archival finding aidA03: Collection archive, inv.no. 17: Inventory book of the Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden, Part II, f. 94.

⁵⁵ NL-HaNA, 2.04.13, inv.no. 1962, Inventory of the objects belonging to the Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden, 1879, Part II, folio number 142.

⁵⁶ TMS, object record RV-360-8082.