

PATRICK JEFFERSON



A BRASS-MOUNTED KUDU HORN PAPER KNIFE

The *Tragelaphus* horn, South Africa; the mounts *circa* 1900.

Provenance: private French collection.

Length 20½" (62cm)

The horn of warm golden colour and twisting form, mounted with a shaped, brass-capped, elliptical blade; small marks commensurate with use and age.

The kudu is a South African antelope (*Tragelaphus*) known as *tholo* in Setswana, where it is a tribal totem of the *Barolong* and *Bathaping* people (see fig. 1).

The brass blade of this unusually large paper knife is likely to be British in origin rather than South African, as the animal was already known in England for its horn, hence the name 'kudu', which came from *isiXhosa iqudu*, via the Afrikaans *koedoe*. Likewise, the style and form of the brass mounts compare to those seen on Edwardian silver mounted paper knives.

A similar kudu horn (fig. 3), originally in The Crosby Brown Collection of Musical Instruments, 1889, is in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (89.4.466).

£850

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fig. 1



fig. 2



fig. 3