Country: Luzon Isld., Philippine Islands.

Locality: Cagayan River, Tamsi.

People: Ilongot. (itan)

Name: Knife and sheath. Iron blade and handle. Flat, curved edged blade tapering to handle. Handle bound with brass strips, wire and rattan. Thin brass disk hand guard. Sheath of two thin flat pieces of light wood, partly covered with bark and strips of rattan.

Curved, flaring end. Cordage waist string.


Notes: (OVER).

Width: Length 43 cm. Height: Price:
Probably made at Kāg or Pāg; heel with 2 triangular perforations and central piece of two others gone. Sheath of bōtak; body wrapped with bark cloth and bejuca.

Nearly every village has its blacksmith, who in his operations employs the usual double-barreled bellows and charcoal fire. With this primitive outfit he works iron pots and the like into knives, and then tempers the blades by repeated heating and chilling. These weapons with their bellied blades, the heels of which are almost always decorated with notches or triangular perforations, and their scimitar shaped sheathes are unique in Luzon. In fact such knives are known from only one other people in the Philippines, the Mandaya of southeastern Mindanao. Every man possesses one of these knives which he always wears attached to his waist by a belt or girdle. He never removes it, even for the night, unless he is in a company - all the members of which are his friends. Primarily the blade is used in warfare and since it is employed in decapitating an enemy it has become known as a headknife. However, it frequently serves as a tool or household utensil.