

PATRICK JEFFERSON



- Item** A VERY LARGE BRASS-MOUNTED KUDU HORN PAPER KNIFE
- Date** The mounts probably British, circa 1900; the *Tragelaphus* horn, South African.
- Provenance** Private French collection.
- Dimensions** Length 20 1/2" (62cm)
- Description** *The horn of warm golden colour and typical corkscrew form, mounted with a shaped brass cap and brass turning to an 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* people¹.
- This horn, mounted as the handle of a brass-bladed 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 Edwardian silver mounted paper-knives.
- A similar kudu horn³, 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).
- Price** £850

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Fig. 1



Fig.2



Fig.3