



## African & Oceanic Art and Antiquities (556)

1st May 2019, Edinburgh

### Lot 11

**Estimate:** £300 - £500 +Fees

#### **PAIR OF INGESSANA PRESTIGE KNIVES, MUDER LATE 19TH / EARLY 20TH CENTURY, SUDAN**

forged iron, both decorated with various incised patterns including representations of animal tracks, lizard skin, scorpions and a horse and rider (2)

longest 84cm

Provenance:

C.R. Williams C.B.E., acquired in the Sudan in 1923, thence by descent.

C.R. Williams was a prominent civil administrator who spent most of his working life in the railways and river transport of colonial Sudan. His memoirs, "Wheels & Paddles in the Sudan" were published in 1986.

Note:

Cf. Ginzberg, M. 2000. African Forms. p. 189.

Ginzberg, writing in the above publication of 2000, notes a similar example as follows:

"This very substantial knife comes from the Blue Nile area of Sudan and even from as far north as Nubia. There is no evidence that the Ingessana actually used it for throwing, or indeed as a weapon at all. Nor did it have hierarchic significance, but the form and incised decoration, making human and animal references, were traditional. It was called muder, the scorpion, a depiction of which always appears on at least one side. Other creatures, or only their tracks, might also be shown. The Ingessana spoke of the head, neck, breast and leg of the knife; on the neck was incised a pattern representing the monitor lizard, whose skin was in fact used to make the neckbands of these people" (Ginzberg, 2000:189).