

Single-Owner Collections / Thursday, 23rd April 2026 / Lot 4050



LOT 4050

A fine Japanese su-yari, possibly late Muromachi/Azuchi-Momoyama period, with triangular-section blade, blade length 65cm, the long tang with single hole piercing and signed to one face, mounted on an oak shaft with upper grip sections, decorated with crushed mother-of-pearl and lacquer, with gilt decorated rattan and copper metal bindings, overall length 221cm, the blade with textured-finish red lacquer saya. Provenance: the collection of the late Roald Knutsen (1933-2025); purchased from J. Gibb, Edinburgh, 21st April 1962. Note: Roald Knutsen noted that Mr Gibb had a second similar example, almost identical, and dated them to be around the first half of the 16th century.

Estimate: £150 - £250

Condition Report

4050. Blade generally clean, some older cleaned rust spots present, possibly refinished at some point in its life. Shaft feels ill fitting, mount at blade socket poorly fitted but has been like that for a long time, some mother-of-pearl decoration lacking. Shaft feels short, possibly shortened but again done a long time ago. Saya has overall lacquer, some lacquer loss more noticeable at end.

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