

# PAN

AMSTERDAM

## VAN PRUISSEN ASIAN ART



Rare Nanban Tsuba

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Japan, Edo period (1600-1868)  
Height: 7.2 cm  
Width: 6.7 cm  
Thickness: 4 mm

This **rare nanban tsuba** (sword guard) from the Edo period, 7.2 cm high, is a finely carved iron piece featuring an unusual motif. It depicts four three-dimensional **Tanjō Butsu (infant Buddha)** figures—a rarity—alongside mythical creatures: two **Pixiu**, a **dragon**, and a **phoenix**, all set within scrolling tendrils and a beaded rim. The Tanjō Butsu, symbolizing Shakyamuni's birth proclamation, shows varied arm raised positions reflecting Japanese and Chinese iconography. The dragon signifies power, the phoenix immortality, and the Pixiu consumes treasures. This tsuba's intricate carving and unique Buddhist imagery make it exceptionally intriguing for tsuba collectors and enthusiasts.