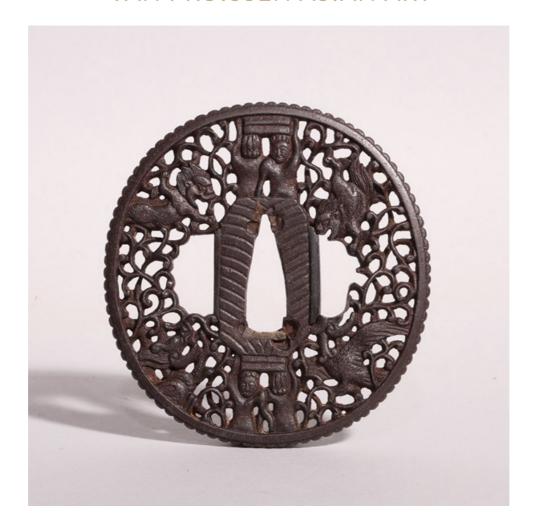


VAN PRUISSEN ASIAN ART



Rare Nanban Tsuba

Rare Nanban Tsuba 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.