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Iberian Bronze Dagger Sheath and Belt

An ancient Iberian bronze and iron sheath for a dagger and belt buckle hardware. The heavily incised and openwork bronze elements of the sheath and belt are riveted to underlying iron.

Ca. 2nd - 1st century BC.
Length: 8 1/2 in. (22 cm).

The Iberic short sword or Gladius Hispaniensis was adapted by the Romans as early as the second century BC, and was the direct predecessor of both the Mainz-Type Gladius Romanus and the shortened, broad bladed Pugio dagger.

Formerly in the collection of Axel Guttmann, Berlin, inv. no. R 350, (1944 - 2001).

inventory number: 7107

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