

*In the next chapters I propose to look at the few other sources of inspiration for Javanese pengukir.*

## In Central Java, the Gana.

In the princely palaces where some of the Javanese noble children are still raised, the wearing of kriss is still practiced on a daily basis. Apprentices wear kriss with handles in a “quasi-human” or animal, or even semi-vegetal form, which are generally called the Gana forms. This was reported to us at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century by Doctor Groneman during his stay at the Kraton of Yogyakarta. There is, however, some doubt as to the designation “Gana” of all these handles. This term refers to the indefinite but animated forms which are at the service of Ganesh the elephant-headed god. Is there a causal link between this very vague definition of these entities and the partial anthropomorphic nature of these kriss handles? We can simply remember that it is under this name that these handles are currently recognised.



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