3955
Rare and Historic Presentation Confederate Naval Dirk, Unmarked, Continental
Circa 1860
7⅛ inch spear point blade etched *Presented to John T. Wood* and on the reverse *From His Shipmates Aboard C.S.S. Virginia, March 9, 1862.* German silver mounted with ray-skin grip. With original German silver scabbard bearing engraved dolphin belt hook and finial tip. 13¼ inches overall.
Condition: Very good to excellent. Blade has grey age patina overall with clear markings.

Note: John Taylor Wood was the grandson of Zachary Taylor and the nephew of Jefferson Davis. At the start of the Civil War, Wood resigned his commission at the U.S. Naval Academy and received a Lieutenant's Commission in the Confederate Navy. Active throughout the war, he is best known for his daring raids against enemy ships. In January 1862, the Navy Department assigned him to the iron clad *C.S.S. Virginia.* His first duty was to collect and train a crew for the converted vessel which later went into action against the ironclad *U.S.S. Monitor.* See *John Taylor Wood, Sea Ghost of the Confederacy,* 1975, University of Georgia Press, included in this lot.

Robert Berryman Collection
Estimate 10,000/15,000

Catalog description when sold for Robert Berryman Collection, 1992