



Inv. no. 42/2001

SEAL, CARVED FROM GREENISH STONE

NORTHERN INDIA; 1748

DIAM: 8.6; D: 0.7 CM

This large circular seal belonged to Safdar Jang (1708-1754), viceroy (*nawwab*) under the Great Mughal Ahmad Shah Bahadur (1748-1754), and is dated to the latter's first year as ruler. Safdar Jang came from Nishapur, like his father-in-law, uncle, and predecessor, Saadat Khan Burhan al-Mulk, the first *nawwab* in the newly founded northern Indian state of Awadh. Safdar Jang succeeded Saadat Khan Burhan al-Mulk in 1739.

Although Awadh was actually an independent state under its viceroys, they recognized the Mughal rulers as their formal sovereigns to the end. '

The elegant floral decoration is typical of 18th-century Indian ornamentation, as is the reversed *Nastaliq* inscription. The overall impression is highly reminiscent of that of contemporary coins.

Published in:  
Bonhams, London, 17/10- 2001, lot 527;