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CAT. 66. WATER PIPE (*HUQQA*), GREEN GLASS WITH POPPIES

INDIA, MUGHAL; BEGINNING OF 18TH CENTURY

The brilliant emerald-green glass of this water pipe is the ground color for the six poppies and six cypresses painted in reserve on a golden ground. Details are painted in gold, and inside is a layer of enamel paint to create depth in the composition. The asymmetrically arranged poppies of different kinds on the neck seem quite natural, though a little stiff.

The model was undoubtedly similar water pipes of *bidri* metal inlaid with brass or silver flowers.

Several of the Great Mughals were habitual users of opium, derived from the opium poppy, *papaver somniferum*.

It is no coincidence that the poppy was often found as a decoration on water pipes, which could be used to smoke opium mixed with tobacco.

