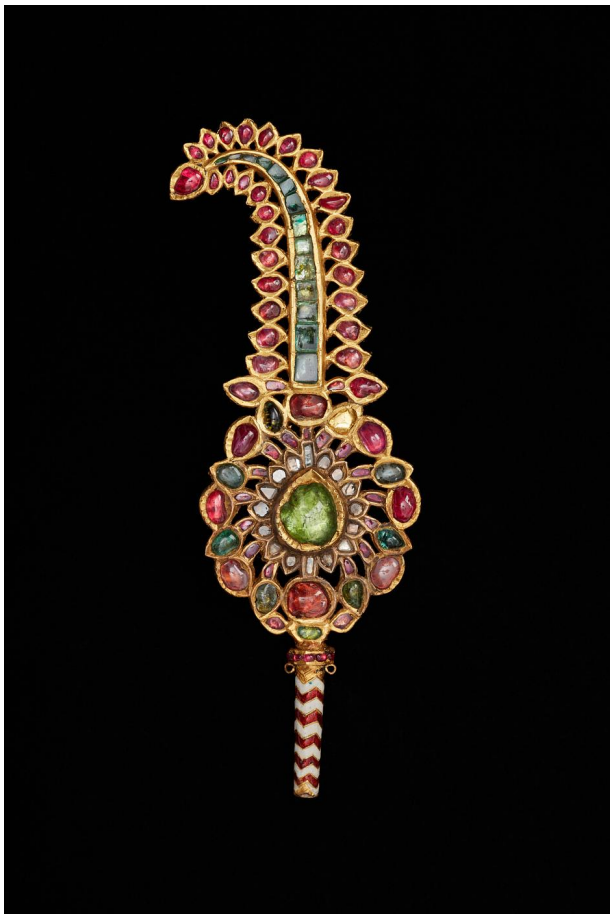

Inv. no. 2/1981

TURBAN ORNAMENT, GOLD SET WITH RUBIES, DIAMONDS, AND EMERALDS; ENAMELED BACK

INDIA, JAIPUR OR MURSHIDABAD; 18TH CENTURY

H: 17.5 CM

A turban ornament (*sarpech*) like this one was derived from the European *aigrette*, which came to India in the late 16th century. The form was initially reserved for the Great Mughal and his family, but as early as the 17th century, it was also bestowed on the great men of the realm, and in time its significance was watered down.

On the back, which is decorated with enamel to mimic the gems on the front, is a hoop that could hold a plume. Richly inlaid and enameled jewelry was made over a long period in India, something that can make it difficult to determine the date of individual pieces.

Published in:
Robert Skelton (ed.): *The Indian heritage: court life and arts under*

Mughal rule, Victoria and Albert Museum, London 1982, cat.no. 310, p. 110;
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