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IRON DAGGER WITH HILT OF LIGHT-GREEN JADE

INDIA; 17TH CENTURY (HILT)

L: 40.3 CM

Daggers of this type, inlaid with gold and with rubies and emeralds set in gold, were made for the ruling upper class. The cut-and-thrust weapons of high-ranking Indian officials, and especially their daggers, were embellished with great imagination with precious stones, enamel, and – as here – with entire hilts made of carved semi-precious stones. Knives of this kind were considered jewelry for men and were often used as princely gifts.

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Ravinder Reddy: *Arms and armour of India, Nepal and Sri Lanka: types, decoration and symbolism*, London 2018, p. 215;