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ARMLET (BAZUBAND), GOLD, INLAID AND ENAMELED, WITH
CORDS OF COTTON AND METAL THREAD

IRAN; 1ST HALF OF 19TH CENTURY

H: 8.3; W: 6.5 CM

Armllets were used by both men and women in India and Iran from the 17th century. They especially took the form of jeweled bands, and a princely bazuband could hold numerous and large gemstones, as we can see on the miniature on the front of this armllet. According to the inscription, it depicts Prince Tahmasp Mirza, grandson of the ruling Fath Ali Shah. The portrait of the shah's son, Muhammad Ali Mirza, is on the armllet's pendant, which does not belong to the museum. As Muhammad Ali Mirza was governor of Kermansha, the two bazubands were probably worn by one of the Qajar family's faithful subjects in this Iranian province.

Although the armllet is quite elaborately executed – both front and back – it is a less costly version of the jeweled bazubands. The enamellist signed his work on the left: Ali Ghulam Khanezad.

Published in:

Drouot-Richelieu, Paris, 10/12-2010, lot 5;

Kjeld von Folsach: *Flora islamica: plantemotiver i islamisk kunst*,

Davids Samling, København 2013, cat.no. 61;