



Inv. no. 32/1980

DAGGER WITH GOLD HILT INLAID WITH ENAMEL AND RUBIES;
MATCHING SCABBARD

NORTHERN INDIA; 18TH CENTURY

L: 36 CM

Men in Mughal India wore jewelry in profusion: turban ornaments, necklaces, and rings. The same conspicuous magnificence that characterizes much of this jewelry for men was also expressed in the Mughals' weapons – the types of objects that were men's most important jewelry-like embellishment in the rest of the Islamic world.

The hilt of this elegant dagger was inlaid with a dense pattern of stylized flowers in green, white, and light-blue enamel. The rudimentary guard and knob are decorated with leaves and a few rubies that make the knob resemble a head. Plant decorations of this kind are found on much Indian decorative art from the 18th century.

Published in:

Spink & Son: *Islamic art from India*, London 1980, cat.no.16, pp. 7 and 15;

Kjeld von Folsach: *Islamic art. The David Collection*, Copenhagen 1990, cat.no. 366;

Stephen Markel: "Luxury arts of Lucknow" in *Arts of Asia*, 1993, 23: March-April, iss. 108-121, pp. 116-117;

Kjeld von Folsach, Torben Lundbæk and Peder Mortensen (eds.): *Sultan, Shah and Great Mughal: the history and culture of the Islamic world*, The National Museum, Copenhagen 1996, cat.no. 340;
Kjeld von Folsach: *Art from the World of Islam in The David Collection*, Copenhagen 2001, cat.no. 569;
Ravinder Reddy: *Arms and armour of India, Nepal and Sri Lanka: types, decoration and symbolism*, London 2018, p. 212;
Kjeld von Folsach, Joachim Meyer and Peter Wandel: *Fighting, Hunting, Impressing. Arms and Armour from the Islamic World 1500-1850*, The David Collection, Copenhagen 2021, cat.no. 39;