

Object Summary

Khanjar (dagger)

18th Century

India

Mughal

Jade, steel, gold

Overall: 2 3/8 x 1 x 15 3/8 in. (6 x 2.5 x 39cm)

This type of dagger is known as a khanjar. Its pistol-shaped hilt is carved from dark green jade and adorned floral designs in shallow relief. The base of its slightly curving blade is decorated with a gold floral design.

This type of dagger hilt appeared in India in the mid- to late-1600s.

Illustrated examples can be seen in miniature paintings depicting the Mughal emperor, Aurangzeb (r. 1658-1797 CE).