

Object Summary



Pair of Gem-Set Hinged Gold Bangles

19th century

India

British India/Princely States

Gold, rubies, emeralds, diamonds, pearls

Overall: 3 1/2 in. (8.9cm)

These hinged bangles are decorated with a row of pearls set between alternating rubies, diamond, and emeralds. The Indian subcontinent was rich with natural deposits of gemstones. Diamonds were mined in the Golconda region of India and provided the only source of diamonds in the world until diamonds were discovered in Brazil in the 1700s. During the reign of the Mughal empire, vast trade networks brought a wealth of precious stones to the Indian subcontinent. Pearls were imported from the

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Persian Gulf; rubies arrived from present-day Sri Lanka and Myanmar, and the finest emeralds came all the way from Columbia.