

Object Summary



Floral Carved Marble Stand

19th century

India

Mughal

Marble

Overall: 3 1/8 × 12 3/4 × 3 7/8 in. (7.9 × 32.4 × 9.8cm)

This carved white marble object is a “henna stone” (sang-e ḥanā in Persian). It was used during the application of henna, a reddish dye frequently used by women to create temporary designs on their palms, feet, and other parts of the body. Required to remain motionless during the intricate application of henna to the soles of her feet, a woman would

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have rested her heels upon the two grooves of the henna stone. Henna was applied at public bath houses called hammams. Upper class women owned their own henna stones for personal use.