



Backstrap from a sword or dagger hilt

Mughal School

On display

Title/Description: Backstrap from a sword or dagger hilt

Artist/Maker: Mughal School

Object Type: Fragment

Materials: Gilt bronze

Measurements: h. 127 x w. 45 mm

Accession Number: 828

Historic Period: Late 17th century

Production Place: Asia, India, Rajasthan

The pommel of this backstrap represents a ram's head. The Sanskrit inscription is a prayer to Shiva's wife in her personification as Kali (also called Durga) the goddess of destruction. It was

common for weapons to bear this sort of prayer for protection in battle.

Description taken from the 'Art From The Indian Sub-Continent In The Sainsbury Centre' catalogue by Margaret A. Willey (Sainsbury Centre, UEA, 1995).
