

Damaru, two-headed ritual hand drum

Mongolian Collection

Accession Nr.: 65.30.1 

Type: **musical instruments; religious/ritual equipment**

Date of production: the end of the 19th century

Place of production: **Mongolia**

Materials: **leather; silk; wood**

Dimensions: diameter: 9.6 cm
length: 90 cm

The damaru was originally a double-sided percussion instrument made of human skull and covered with leather, which was used in funeral ceremonies. This drum is made of two hemispherical pieces of dark brown wood with a green painted leather cover, which shows signs of use. A red silk ribbon and three gilded metal ornaments are tied to the middle of the drum body. The ribbon is connected to a red cord with pearls on it. A long, silk ribbon is attached to the cord with colorful fringes at the end, on which Buddhist symbols are embroidered. Bundles of red cord with pearls on both sides.

