

# Damaru, two-headed ritual hand drum

Mongolian Collection

Accession Nr.: **65.91.1** 

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

Date of production: turn of the 19th and 20th centuries

Place of production: **Mongolia**

Materials: **leather; plastic; silk**

Dimensions: height: 6.6 cm  
diameter 9 cm  
length: 77 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 yellowish-white veined celluloid with a green dyed leather cover. A red silk ribbon is tied to the middle of the drum body, to which the drum sticks are attached. The ribbon is connected to a red string, on which a brown stone butterfly and pearls are attached. A long, silk ribbon is attached to the cord with colorful fringes at the end, on which plant ornaments are embroidered. Bundles of yellow cords on both sides.

