


Amulet

Southeast Asian Collection

Accession Nr.:	2656 
Type:	bronze, lead, gold and silver; jewellery; organic remains; religious or cult object; metalwork; amulet
Date of production:	19th century
Place of production:	Thailand (Siam), Southeast Asia
Materials/Techniques:	silver, seed (bead)
Dimensions:	height: 2.5 cm width: 3.9 cm depth: 1.1 cm
Acquisition:	collection of Ferenc Hopp

A silver cap at both ends and a small silver strap around the waist cover this spectacular amulet made from the heartwood of the Rudraksha tree (Latin: *Elaeocarpus ganitrus*). The seed, found in the bluish-purple fruit of the Rudraksha (Sanskrit: eye of Rudra) tree, is considered a sacred fruit in Hindu culture and is believed to have extraordinary physiological properties. To this day it is used to make bracelets, pendants, prayer beads and necklaces, and is popular throughout South Asia for its medicinal properties.

