

A M I R M O H T A S H E M I



Dagger with Jade Handle

Ottoman Turkey, 19th century

Jade, steel, silver

53cm long with scabbard, 51cm long without scabbard

Stock no.: A5643

With a hilt made of green jade that has a narrow bar in the middle and a broader, scalloped pommel, the double-edged blade is made of watered wootz steel and tapers to a sharp point. The blade features a deep ridge running through both sides. The scabbard is covered in red velvet with two gilt silver mounts and ends in a silver bud. The mounts are both decorated with bands of floral decoration and have hallmarks. Distinct *sah* marks (the zigzag and the word *sah*) prove the quality of the silver. The other two silver marks on the mounts are likely to be the *tügra* of Abdulmejid (1839-1861).¹ A small semiprecious stone is fixed on the jade hilt.

Turkish *kindjals* can be identified by their narrow hilts and broad pommels. On *kindjals* from the first half of the nineteenth century, the scabbard is usually covered with velvet or engraved silver sheet, ending with a small ball like-tip.² Jade hilts on *kindjals* are rarely found as they were typically made of ivory or steel.

¹ Kürkman, Garo. *Ottoman Silver Marks*. Istanbul, 1996, pp. 46-47.

² Rivkin, Kirill. *Arms and Armor of Caucasus*. First Edition, 2015, p. 247