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Gems and Jewels of Mughal India: Jewelled and Enamelled Objects from the 16th to 20th Centuries (The Nasser D Khalili Collection of Islamic Art) (Studies in the Khalili Collection)

Henrietta Sharp Cockrell, Stephen Vernoit, Pedro Moura Carvalho
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Henrietta Sharp Cockrell, Stephen Vernoit, Pedro Moura Carvalho : Gems and Jewels of Mughal India: Jewelled and Enamelled Objects from the 16th to 20th Centuries (The Nasser D Khalili Collection of Islamic Art) (Studies in the Khalili Collection) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Gems and Jewels of Mughal India: Jewelled and Enamelled Objects from the 16th to 20th

Centuries (The Nasser D Khalili Collection of Islamic Art) (Studies in the Khalili Collection):

The nearly 200 Indian jewelled and enamelled luxury objects in the Nasser D. Khalili Collection of Islamic Art add significantly to the corpus of Mughal art and to the history of goldsmiths' work and hardstone-carving in the Indian subcontinent. Most other collections of Indian jewelled and enamelled work hold mainly later or post-Mughal pieces but the Khalili Collection includes outstanding objects and personal ornaments from 17th- and early 18th-century royal Mughal workshops. Prominent among the objects presented in the catalogue are a unique enamel-painted gold puqqah water vessel with matching decorated chilam support, likely an early product of the Rajasthani court workshop; a ruby engraved with the names and titles of the emperors Jahangir and Shah Jahan; a gold box overlaid with 103 carved emeralds from the period of Shah Jahan, as well as two carved emeralds of notable size and superb colour, also from the period of Shah Jahan or perhaps the early years of his son Awrangzeb's reign; and a gold enamelled box and tray of unparalleled quality and refined decorative repertoire. The catalogue also includes fine later 18th- and 19th-century objects, and a wide range of items of personal jewellery, which trace the Mughal legacy in the provincial territories of northern India, Rajasthan and Gujarat, the Deccan and southern India into the 20th century. Essays exploring various aspects of precious Mughal objects and the materials used in their making are accompanied by detailed catalogue entries.

About the Author Dr Pedro Moura Carvalho is a former deputy curator of the Khalili Collection. He is now working on the catalogue of Safavid ceramics in the Collection and on a Mughal illustrated *Mir'at al-Quds*, a text on the life of Christ, which was commissioned by Emperor Akbar and written in 1602 by the Jesuit Jerome Xavier. He has published extensively on the European contribution to the arts of India, Iran and China. Dr Stephen Vernoit was research fellow in Islamic art at St Antony's College, Oxford, and has since taught at al-Akhawayn University in Morocco and Durham University in England. His research and publications have focused on Islamic art from the 18th to the 20th centuries; he authored the catalogue of 19th-century objects in the Khalili Collection. Henrietta Sharp Cockrell worked as a specialist in Islamic art and manuscripts at Christie's, London for several years before becoming a freelance consultant. She has worked at the al-Sabah Collection of Art in Kuwait and is the inventor of the 'Sharp Scale' for measuring the opacity/translucency of paper.