



Seal

Date

19th to 20th Century

Medium

Silver and leather

Description

A silver seal like this one would have been used by almost every political and religious official from Tibet to sign letters and documents. It would have been hung from a belt by its cord for ease of access. To leave a signature, an impression would be made in either cow skin, wax, or lac. This is a practice which was imported from China, but the decoration of the seals remains indisputably Tibetan. The fine carvings indicate that it would have been owned by someone very important.

Dimensions

Without strap: 2 5/8 × 5/8 × 5/8 in. (6.7 × 1.6 × 1.6 cm)