Wine cup - Jahangir's jade wine cup

Object: Wine cup
Place of origin: Mughal empire (made in the imperial workshops, made)
Date: 1613-1614 (made)
Artist/Maker: Unknown
Materials and Techniques: Nephrite jade
Credit Line: Purchased from the Royal Asiatic Society
Museum number: IM.152-1924
Gallery location: South Asia, Room 41, case 19

Descriptive line

Physical description
Shallow cup of dark green nephrite jade, with one handle in the shape of a cockerel's head and neck. Persian verses and the date incised on the rim, filled at a later date with white composition.

Dimensions
Height: 3.8 cm, Diameter: 8.8 cm

Museum number
IM.152-1924

Object history note
The cup was made for the Mughal emperor Jahangir. After coming to the UK, it was bequeathed by N. B. Edmonstone to the Royal Asiatic Society and was with that part of the Society's collection transferred 'temporarily' to the India Museum in London in 1869. The museum of the Royal Asiatic Society had been maintained from the founding of the Society in 1823 to 1869 when it moved to smaller premises (see Kathy Lazenbatt, "The Early History and Collections of the RAS" in Royal Asiatic Society, Newsletter, Spring 2008, pp. 7-9). The Indian Museum's collections in turn were dispersed in 1879, and the cup came with other material to the South Kensington Museum. At that time, it was presumed that all the objects from the Royal Asiatic Society had been given to the Indian Museum. In 1923, however, their status as loans to the Indian Museum was recognised and all the items were reviewed, with most being given by the RAS to what was now the Victoria and Albert Museum. The wine cup of Jahangir was purchased, for £100 (see RP1924/2593, Minute from CSC [Caspar Stanley Clarke] dated 27.V.24).

URL
http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O18896/jahangirs-jade-wine-cup-wine-cup-unknown/