

S.J. PHILLIPS



Set of three antique 18ct gold and coloured gem serpent mesh bracelets, Cairo 1926, after the 19th century revival style, each set with a principal sapphire, emerald or ruby to the head,

having a gold mesh-weave style bracelet terminating in a serpent head, one a cushion cut sapphire, one with a cabochon ruby and one with a cabochon emerald, each with a single diamond beside of either rose or old cut, enamelled eyes, all marked '750 PD' and with Cairo city and date marks for 1926.

For hundreds of years Egypt has been a popular draw for the more adventurous of travellers, particularly captivating in the aftermath of any of the significant archaeological discoveries. The Art Deco period was no exception and combined this thrilling pull following the unearthing of Tutankhamun's tomb with Cairo's embrace of the jazz era and growing cosmopolitanism. The city attracted travellers, exiles and entertainers from across the globe. European and home-grown jewellers capitalised on this boom and accompanying Egyptomania. Historic European Jewellers, like Bajocchi Jewellers (founded in 1890) and Bichay catered to tourists and high society in central Cairo. They blended Western goldsmith techniques with local Eastern aesthetics and ancient symbols. These serpent bracelets are a good example of this combining fine workmanship with an archaeological revival style, incorporating the snake representative of rebirth and divine authority amongst other attributes since antiquity.

Ruby approximately 7.8 x 6.5mm

Emerald approximately 8.8 x 6.0mm

Sapphire approximately
Weight: 58.5g