

Basic Detail Report

**Title**

Earring in Chinoiserie Style

Date

about 1820

Dimensions

L: 2 1/2 in. (6.4 cm)

Medium

Silver, gold, diamonds, pearls and rubies

Classifications

Jewelry

Credit Line

Mr. and Mrs. George M. Jones, Jr. Fund

Object number

2000.24B

Collections

Decorative Arts

Label Text

The appeal of long earrings was prompted by the dress and hairstyles of the English Regency period, when the Prince Regent, George IV, ruled (1811–1820). The exotic birds and pagoda-shaped elements of these earrings reflect the period's romantic taste for the Far East, known as chinoiserie (sheen-WAH-zer-ee). Pierced earrings were a sign of maturity. The first pair of earrings was usually given to a young girl in England at age 16, when simple 'top-and-drop' pearl earrings were considered to be more appropriate for a young, unmarried girl. These stunning pagoda earrings, an entirely Western invention, would have been worn on formal occasions by a fashion-conscious, mature woman. When wearing diamond jewelry at this time, it was recommended that a lady should apply rouge to her face to highlight the sparkling jewels.

On View

Toledo Museum of Art (2445 Monroe Street), Gallery, 34, Jewelry Gallery