



A 19th-century heart-shaped sapphire and diamond ring, gold and silver.

Heart-shaped sapphire, collet-set; ten old brilliant-cut diamonds; two round sapphires on the shoulders.
18ct (750‰) gold and 800‰ silver

Ring size FR 57 (US 8 / UK P½); gross weight 3.5 g.

19th century.

A heart-shaped cluster ring, the head in silver on a gold back: at the centre a heart-cut sapphire of deep blue in a closed collet, framed by ten old brilliant-cut diamonds in cut-down settings following the outline of the heart. The shoulders, chased with a textured pattern, each carry a small round sapphire in a rubover collet; the hoop is in yellow gold.

The construction — diamonds in silver, the body in gold — is the rule for fine jewellery before the arrival of platinum around 1900.

Historical context

The sentimental ring of the 19th century, the heart-shaped bezel belongs to the long tradition of the love ring, from the fede and heart rings of the 15th and 16th centuries to the sentimental jewellery of the Georgian and Victorian periods. In the 19th century the heart-shaped cluster — a coloured stone within a diamond border — became one of the standard forms of the betrothal or gift ring in France and England.

Iconography and symbolism

The heart as a scalloped emblem of love is a medieval invention: it first appears in the *Roman de la Poire* around 1250, where a lover offers his heart to his lady, and by the 15th century it had become the universal sign it remains.

The sapphire is the stone of the sky and of fidelity — the medieval lapidaries, from Marbode of Rennes onward, made it the gem of constancy and truth, hence the English "true blue".