



Cleopatra snake girdle. Paris, France: Late 19th or early 20th century. Folger ART Inv. 1096 (realia).

Costuming for Cleopatra often foreshadows her death-by-snake at the end of the play. Although called a 'girdle' in the Folger's collection, photographs of the actress Helena Modjeska (1840-1909) show this gold snake with diamond eyes being worn as either an arm band or a bracelet. William Winter (1836 - 1917), the famous theater critic, gave the bejeweled snake to 'Madame Modjeska' in 1903.

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