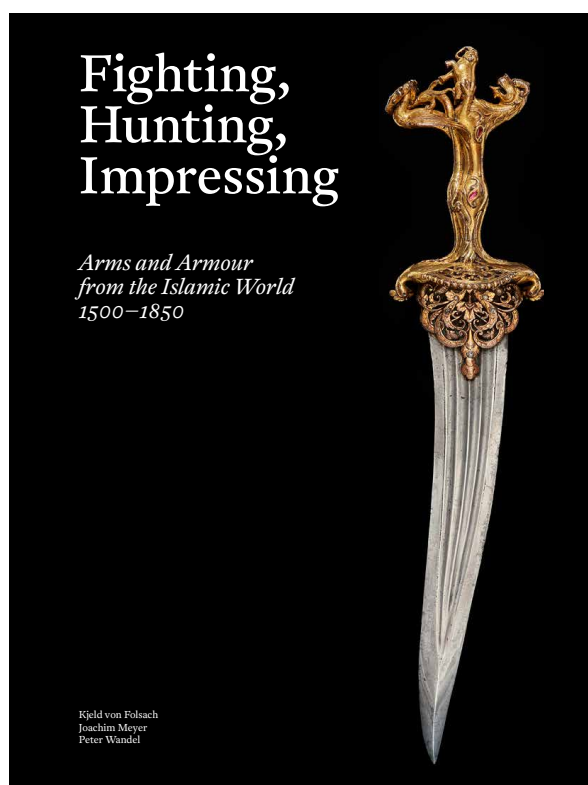




Kjeld von Folsach, Joachim Meyer
and Peter Wandel

Fighting, Hunting, Impressing

Arms and Armour
from the Islamic World
1500–1850

Published: 26 March 2021
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A unique insight into the fascinating arsenal of Islamic princes

Fighting, Hunting, Impressing – Arms and Armour from the Islamic World 1500–1850 is the book behind the upcoming exhibition of the same name, scheduled to open at The David Collection on 26 March 2021. The book and exhibition focus on the characteristics of Islamic arms and armour from 1500 to 1850, describing the role they played on the battlefield, in connection with hunting and as ornaments.

The vast majority of arms and armour was created for men, and the finest and most lavish specimens were not intended for either fighting or hunting, but may be considered a kind of male jewellery and status symbols. Colossal amounts of technical skill and artistic creativity was put into the creation of these objects of beauty, all while retaining their utility as fully functional weapons.

The book's introductory article examines the role played by fighting and arms and armour in the Koran, and how these are connected with the rise and early spread of Islam.

Another article is about *furusiyya*, the chivalric code of the Islamic world. The concept covers both the practical education and moral edification that noble Islamic warriors of the time were expected to receive.

Arabic script plays a major role in the decoration of Islamic art in general. This also applies to arms and armour, and while many inscriptions come from the Koran, others may also reveal who made the weapons, when they were made and who owned them.

The history of collecting Islamic arms and armour, in the Islamic world and in the West, has many fascinating aspects that are also explored in this publication.

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Finally, three articles provide broad insights into the three main contexts in which Islamic arms and armour were used: combat and war, princely hunts, and various ceremonies such as audiences and exchanges of gifts.

The large catalogue section of the book presents and analyses a range of weapons, armour, helmets and shields. Originally created in an area extending from North Africa to India, these pieces have found their way into Danish collections from the seventeenth century onwards. Also included are a number of miniature paintings illustrating the various contexts in which arms and armour were used. An appendix contains translations of the objects' numerous Arabic, Persian and Turkish inscriptions.

Many of the 151 items featured in the catalogue belong to The David Collection, but other museums and a private collector have also contributed extensively. All the works on display are beautifully reproduced in the book, supplemented by a large number of full-colour illustrations in the introductory articles.

About the authors

The book's authors and editors are museum director Kjeld von Folsach, curator Joachim Meyer and curator Peter Wandel – all three from the David Collection. The book also contains contributions by professor Thomas Hoffmann, University of Copenhagen, and Will Kwiatkowski, an international scholar specialised in Islamic inscriptions.

Information and contact

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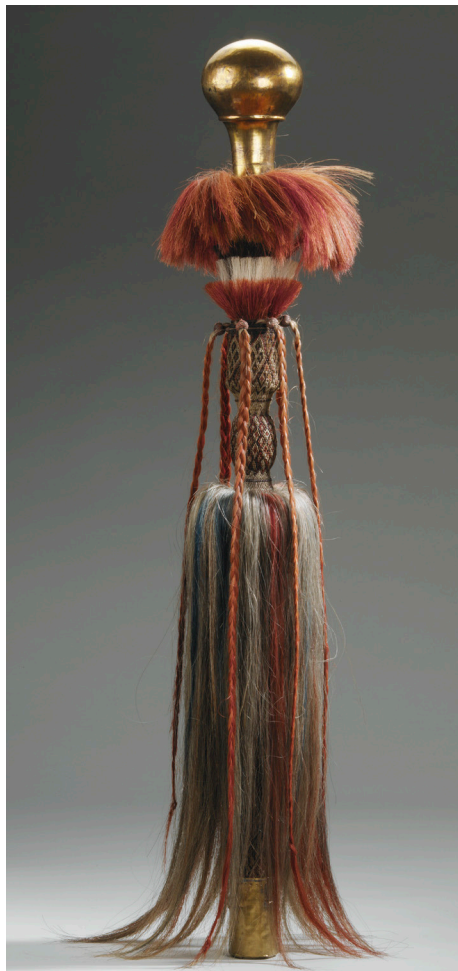
Cover and photos from the book are available for download at: strandbergpublishing.dk/presse



Part of: Miniature, Iran; late 1680s



Dagger, India; 18th–19th c.



Standard, Ottoman Empire; 17th c.



Miniature, India; c. 1610



Helmet, Western Iran or Eastern Anatolia; 15th c.