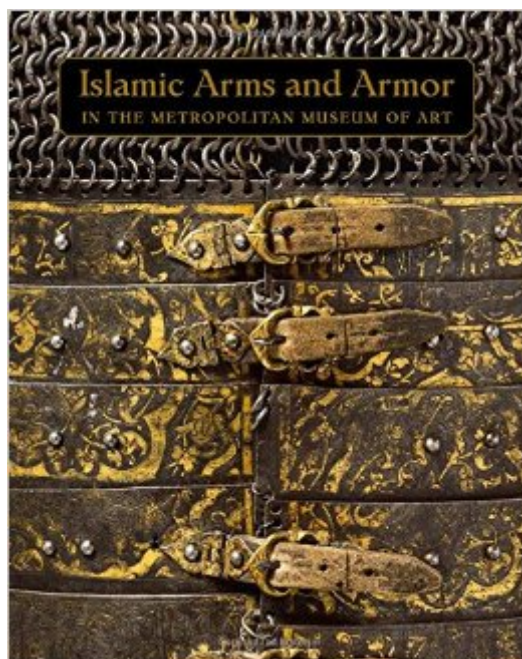


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# Islamic Arms And Armor: In The Metropolitan Museum Of Art



## Synopsis

A lushly illustrated survey of exquisitely crafted weapons and armor from the Islamic world, which display extraordinary artistry and opulence. From its origins in the 7th century, armor and weaponry were central to Islamic culture not only as a means of conquest and the spread of faith, but also as symbols of status, wealth, and power. More than 120 exceptional examples from the renowned collection of The Metropolitan Museum of Art are presented in detail to demonstrate the remarkable craftsmanship and beauty of Islamic arms and armor. These diverse objects, which have never been catalogued or published in detail, span ten centuries and represent nearly every Islamic culture, from Spain to the Caucasus. Among these masterpieces are rare early works, such as the oldest documented Islamic sword, and fine examples of decorated helmets and body armor from late-15th-century Iran and Anatolia. Also included are lavish gem-studded weapons from royal courts in the Ottoman world and India. Each piece is handsomely photographed, with a detailed discussion of its technical, historical, and artistic importance. Made by master artisans in conjunction with leading designers, goldsmiths, and jewelers, these stunning objects demonstrate how utilitarian military equipment could be transformed into striking and extravagant works of art. <sup>^</sup>

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A typical danger of writing a book entitled "... in the collection of ...." is to be limited to a discussion of a few disconnected, pretty pieces with little historical or artistic continuity and connection between them. This work however is a first class research publication, that clearly demonstrates strong side of the authors (Islamic armor), being one of the best reviews of the subject as it is known today. Not

only it is illustrated by some of the best examples in existence, but it also amply refers to other publications and collections, which allows for the presentation that is relatively complete and executed with much integrity and professionalism. Other sections - on blades and firearms are of considerable less interest and suffer from the issue pointed above - some of the periods and schools are clearly over-represented, and while the descriptions are still presenting some important points, one cannot rely on them to be a general guide to the subject. One should also note the excellent foreword by Stuart Phyr, which explains much regarding the formation and extent of the Met's Oriental collections.

Great information on early Islamic arms and armor, especially like the Mamluk research.

An absolute for the library of any collector of Indo-Persian arms and armor. You will not be disappointed in this well written and illustrated book.

Not bad. Worth the money spent.

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