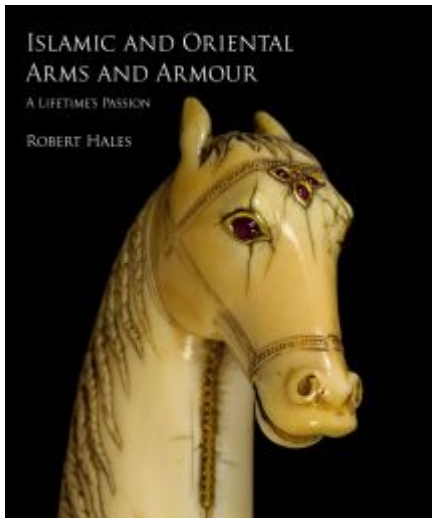


Islamic and Oriental Arms and Armour

A Lifetime's Passion

Robert Hales

Publication date: 4 October 2013



Islamic and Oriental Arms and Armour is rightly subtitled *A Lifetime's Passion*. Robert Hales bought his first antique weapon in Kabul in 1966 when, at the age of 21, he travelled overland to Nepal through Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan through India to Kathmandu, where he also acquired antiques from Tibetan refugees. By the time he returned to London, travelling south through Baluchistan, Southern Iran and on to the Middle East, Jerusalem and Petra, his course was set. Abandoning a fledgling career as a microbiologist, Hales's passion for antique arms took over his life and he became a highly respected dealer with a gallery in London for 27 years. He continued to travel widely, from Morocco to Egypt and later to the Far East where he began a love affair with Indonesia and for the *kris* (an asymmetrical dagger with a distinctive wavy blade).

A recognised authority, Hales' forthcoming publication *Islamic and Oriental Arms and Armour* is the first to document the range and breadth of this extraordinary field and is enthusiastically welcomed. Donald J. LaRocca, Curator, Department of Arms and Armor at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, said: "Every collector, dealer, and curator will want to have this book and will consult it again and again". Such a comprehensive reference work has not been published since George Cameron Stone's *A Glossary of the Construction, Decoration and Use of Arms and Armor: in All Countries and in All Times* in 1934.

The book is divided into four sections: daggers; swords; firearms; and armour, with the occasional transgression and a useful glossary of terms. It contains weapons from a vast area and includes a wide range of styles. Many were never used in anger but were primarily worn to show the wealth and status of the owner. The skilled master craftsman from the court workshop, with access to the most expensive and precious materials, inevitably produced some of the most exquisite examples of Islamic and Oriental art. Hales kept a photographic record of many of the weapons that passed through his hands, resulting in a rich and extensive archive. As Thom Richardson, Royal Armouries' Keeper of Armour and Oriental Collections, Leeds, says: "As a source of images of the finest Asian weapons, this book is unrivalled and will be an indispensable resource for anyone interested in the subject in the future".

Over forty years of experience and scholarship has been invested in *Islamic and Oriental Arms and Armour: A Lifetime's Passion*. As his life-long friend and fellow-enthusiast for antique weapons, Jonathan Barrett, says in his foreword: "Bob was fortunate to have been active during a period of relatively plentiful supply; a time that we are unlikely to see again".

400 pages, 304 x 254 mm, over 850 colour and 150 black and white illustrations
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For further information and images, please contact:

Sue Bond Public Relations

Tel. +44 (0)1359 271085, Fax. +44 (0)1359 271934

E-mail. info@suebond.co.uk, Website. www.suebond.co.uk

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