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MACE HEAD, BRONZE

IRAN; 10TH-12TH CENTURY

L: 16.5 CM

Maces were used as cavalry weapons, but were also symbols of power or office. A *Shahnama* illustration from around 1340 shows the hero Gudarz surrounded by guards with maces of the same type as this one. Gudarz himself is shown seated holding a mace that ends in a lion's head.

The miniature "Gudarz Sends Giv Out After Khusraw" can be seen [here](#)

Published in:

Sotheby's, London, 13/4-1988, lot 223;

Kjeld von Folsach, Torben Lundbæk and Peder Mortensen (eds.):

*Sultan, Shah and Great Mughal: the history and culture of the Islamic world*, The National Museum, Copenhagen 1996, cat.no. 168;