



Inv. no. 18a/1977, 18b/1977, 18c/1977, 18d/1977 & 14/1968

PARTS OF ARMOR AND ARM GUARDS, GILDED IRON

INDIA OR IRAN; 17TH-18TH CENTURY

FRONT AND BACK PLATES: H: 29; B: 20 CM

SIDE PLATES: H: 25; B: 16 CM

ARM GUARD: H: 32; B: 9,5 CM

As weapons were improved, it also became necessary to improve armor. The classical Indo-Persian *char-aina* (four mirror) armor provided good protection, both in front and behind, against blows of the sword and arrows. The four metal plates, which were to some extent shaped to fit the body's contours, were mounted on a mail shirt that permitted a high degree of freedom of movement.

Arm guards (*bazuband*) protected the soldier's arm up to the elbow. Like the body armor, their outer surface is decorated with curved, gilded arabesques, while the inside is padded and covered with soft velvet.

Both armor and arm guards were used right up to the advent of modern firearms.

Published in:

18a-d/1977

Kjeld von Folsach, Joachim Meyer and Peter Wandel: *Fighting, Hunting, Impressing. Arms and Armour from the Islamic World 1500-1850*, The David Collection, Copenhagen 2021, cat.no. 56;

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André Leth: *Davids Samling. Islamisk kunst = The David Collection. Islamic Art*, København 1975, p. 89;

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. 159;