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BRONZE UMBO

IRAN; 12TH-13TH CENTURY

H: 5.2; DIAM: 24.5 CM

Islamic weapons and armor from before the 15th century are fairly rare. A distinctive group of objects, however, comprises umbos. The umbo is the central part of a larger shield that was probably made of leather.

Umbos are also known from the European Middle Ages and were used not only for protection but also to deal blows, like brass knuckles.

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