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MINIATURE FROM A *FURUSIYYA* MANUSCRIPT. 'A MAMLUK TRAINING WITH A LANCE'

EGYPT OR SYRIA; C. 1500

LEAF: 24 × 16.7 CM

The Mamluks were a dynasty of professional slave soldiers for whom the art of war was of the greatest importance. They cultivated a special type of writing, the *furusiyya*, which primarily dealt with the horse and its use in war, but also infantry drills with the sword, the lance, the bow, and Greek fire. Such writing was often based on earlier Abbasid treatises.

The Mamluk shown here training with his lance is wearing a characteristic violet fur hat (*zamt*), but otherwise the depiction has limited aesthetic ambitions. It is an illustration for a didactic work, nothing more.

Published in:

Sophie Makariou [et al.]: *Memorias do Imperio Árabe do 13 de xullo ó 27 de setembro de 2000*, Auditorio de Galicia, Santiago de Compostela 2000, cat.no. 141;
Kjeld von Folsach: *For the Privileged Few: Islamic Miniature Painting from The David Collection*, Louisiana, Humlebæk 2007, cat.no. 6;
Kjeld von Folsach, Joachim Meyer: *The Human Figure in Islamic Art – Holy Men, Princes, and Commoners*, The David Collection, Copenhagen 2017, cat.no. 19;
Martine Acerra [et al.]: *L'Âge classique, XVe-XIXe siècle*, Paris 2019. (*Mondes en guerre*, dirigé af Hervé Drévilion, vol. 2), p. 485;
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 2;