



Inv. no. 20/1987

FRAGMENT OF A LEAF FROM A GIGANTIC KORAN, WRITTEN IN MUHAQQAQ

CENTRAL ASIA, SAMARKAND; C. 1400-1405

45 × 98 CM (THE FRAGMENT WAS TRIMMED ON THE SIDES)

These two lines are a fragment of a leaf from the largest known Koran ever made. Each leaf had seven lines, and it would have measured 222 × 155 cm untrimmed. The Koran was copied by Umar Aqta for the world conqueror Timur in his capital of Samarkand.

Transcribing a Koran in this format must have demanded enormous concentration of the calligrapher, and the exactitude and elegance with which the gigantic script – *Jalil Muhaqqaq* – was written make it a masterpiece in its genre. The point of the reed pen must have measured c. 1 cm, and making the large sheets of paper must have been a technological accomplishment in itself.

Published in:

Kjeld von Folsach: *Islamic art. The David Collection*, Copenhagen 1990, cat.no. 7;

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. 102;

Kjeld von Folsach: *Art from the World of Islam in The David Collection*, Copenhagen 2001, cat.no. 11;

Sheila S. Blair and Jonathan M. Bloom (eds.): *Cosmophilia. Islamic Art from the David Collection*, Copenhagen, McMullen Museum of Art, Boston College, Boston 2006, cat.no. 22;

Marie Rehakova: *Koran: vyvoj umelecke tradice*, Plzen 2013, fig. 22, p. 51;

Stig T. Rasmussen: *Klassisk arabisk litteratur i oversættelse til dansk:*

*en litteraturhistorisk vejvisende antologi*, København 2018, p. 55;