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BOW AND ARROW

TURKEY; 17TH-18TH CENTURY

L: C. 52 CM

While the sword, spear, and lance were the most essential weapons in the early Islamic period, the bow became increasingly important under the influence of the mounted Central Asian peoples. From around 1200, heavy cavalry was increasingly replaced by lighter troops armed with bows. The highly mobile mounted Mongol armies, in particular, showed the superiority of this kind of cavalry.

This bow from the Ottoman Empire comes from the arms collection of the German House of Hanover and was probably taken as booty after the Siege of Vienna in 1683, when the Turkish army suffered a decisive defeat.

Published in:

Sotheby's, Schloss Marienburg, 13/10-2005, lot 3605;
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. 43