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IRON HELMET, INLAID WITH SILVER AND GOLD

IRAN; 19TH CENTURY

H: 26.8; DIAM: 20 CM

Highly decorative helmets were made in Iran under the Safavids and Qajars and in Mughal India. Like this one, a typical helmet consisted of a hemispherical body with a tall spike and fittings and holders for supplementary equipment. A number of little holes along the lower edge held chain mail to protect the neck. A band is riveted to the front to attach a nose guard, and two conical tubes are mounted on the sides to hold plumes or other decorations.

Helmets of this type and other traditional armor slowly lost their importance with the spread of firearms.

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