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[Iranian Weapons of Pre-Nuclear-Age Destruction](#)

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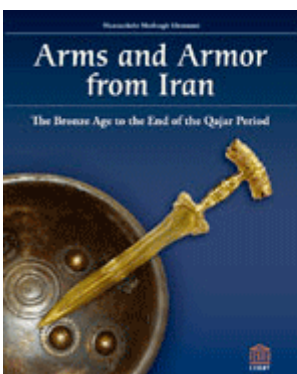


Fig. 15: An engraved axe (tabar)
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If you are interested in weapons of less than mass destruction from the Middle East, then you should take a look at a recent, amply illustrated book by Manoucher Moshtagh Khorasani entitled [Arms and Armor from Iran: The Bronze Age to the End of the Qajar Period](#), 780 pages and over 2,800 color images, ISBN-10: 3-932942-22-1, ISBN-13: 978-3-932942-22-8

Here is a sample from the online description of the book:

The present book describes the developmental trajectory of Iranian arms and armor through the centuries. The Iranian epics such as *Shahname* are full of stories about ancient heroes who fought for the just cause and destroyed the forces of Ahriman. The legendary figure of Rostam, from *Shahname*, has served as a role model of a pahlavan, a hero who supported the Iranian kings and fought against injustice, for countless generations of Iranian kings and warriors. The weapons used by these heroes are meticulously described in the *Shahname*. The holy book of the *Avesta*, sacred to the Zoroastrians, also names many types of arms and armor and describes each of them in detail.

Various archeological excavations in the northern regions of Iran, such as those in Gilan, and archeological excavations and illegal digs in southwestern areas, such as Luristan, have revealed a tremendous number and variety of bronze weaponry, such as bronze daggers and swords, and some pieces of armor. This book exhibits a number of selected bronze daggers and swords that were excavated by Dr. Ezat Negahban in Marlik, as well as an array of bronze weapons from Luristan that is currently kept in the National Museum of Iran in Tehran. These bronze weapons show a variety of manufacturing techniques that utilized very advanced technology, such as one-mold casting, cast-on technique and cire perdu (the lost wax process). This book contains an accurate and detailed description of all these techniques, along with breathtaking pictures of bronze weapons that accompany the text to give the readers a good grasp of the topic... [For the rest of this introduction, [click here](#).]

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