



Arms and Armor from Iran

The Bronze Age to the End of the Qajar Period

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DECEMBER 2006, Book Review: Arms and Armor from Iran

Although I have been working on the conservation of metal for years and was given the opportunity to restore and conserve the inventory of the Crown Jewels of the Central Bank of Iran (where I could draw the bejeweled swords from their bejeweled scabbards), I was not fully aware of the fact that the real jewel was, indeed, the watered blades with their marvellous patterns, not their jewels and precious stones. I was not fully aware of the fact that, next to their sophisticated culture, my ancestors used very complex technology in manufacturing arms and armor for the battlefields, nor did I realize how they used different materials to achieve this goal.

When I saw the book Arms and Armor from Iran: The Bronze Age to the End of the Qajar Period, I was truly surprised to see the intricate level of knowledge of Iranians in making quality arms and armor and to observe the unflagging determination of the son of Iran, Ostad Manouchehr Moshtagh Khorasani, offer scholars and viewers comprehensive knowledge about the technology of the manufacture of arms and armor, based on solid academic research. One can observe that Iranians not only used highly sophisticated arms and armor but also followed a certain codex of warrior behavior. All these topics are discussed in the book Arms and Armor from Iran: The Bronze Age to the End of the Qajar Period. This book is a true miracle, no matter from what perspective one looks at it, be it an academic or artistic view.

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