

SELECT WORKS FROM THE  
L.A. MAYER MUSEUM  
FOR ISLAMIC ART JERUSALEM

LONDON 27 OCTOBER 2020



Sotheby's EST. 1744

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Encompassing the breadth of the Islamic World at its height, with multifarious media spanning three continents, from Spain to South East Asia over almost a millennium and a half, the L.A. Mayer Museum for Islamic Art is a jewel located at very heart of the Islamic World, in the Holy City of Jerusalem.

Since it first opened its doors to the public in 1974, the L.A. Mayer Museum has held true to its founding principle of promoting cultural dialogue through the appreciation of art. Home to world-renowned collections of Islamic art and watches, the museum is a unique institution founded by philanthropist Vera Bryce Salomons (1888-1969), whose family history tells a story of enlightened activism in the cause of social justice beginning in the 19th century with Vera's great-uncle Sir David Salomons (1797-1873).

Conscious of the absence of places for the public to see works of Islamic art, Salomons set out to establish the L.A. Mayer Museum for Islamic Art, naming it after her friend and teacher Professor Leo Aryeh Mayer (1895-1959), the distinguished scholar and professor of Islamic art and archaeology. Like Salomons, Mayer was a true believer in the relevance of Islamic culture and its ability to aid peaceful coexistence between Jewish and Arab peoples.

Vera Salomons enlisted the help of Professor Richard Ettinghausen to build the museum's collection. One of the towering figures in the field of Islamic art in the 20th century, he published over 200 papers on Islamic art and architecture over a career spanning more than 40 years, and served as the chief curator at the Freer Gallery of Art, Washington D.C. The 12 years he spent collaborating with Salomons on the museum's acquisitions between 1965 and 1979 are reflected today in a wealth of pieces from across the Islamic geographical arc, hand-picked from the great auctions and art dealers of the period, notable for their quality, provenance and academic interest. The cosmopolitanism of Salomons, Mayer and Ettinghausen is very much in evidence today, not only in the museum's holdings, but also in its cultural activities, exhibitions – including the juxtaposition of contemporary and classical art – as well as in its educational initiatives.

We are honoured to present Select Works from the L.A. Mayer Museum for Islamic Art | Jerusalem as a dedicated single owner sale in London on 27 October. The works on offer range from early Qur'an leaves to Ottoman textiles, pottery from across the Islamic lands, silver-inlaid metalwork, as well as exceptional examples of Islamic arms and armour. A group of fine rugs and carpets is also included in the sale.

Exhibition in London 24–26 October.

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(Cover)

*A rare and important silver-inlaid*

*Aqqoyunlu turban helmet*

Turkey or Persia,

second half 15th century

33cm. height; 23cm. diam.

Estimate £400,000–600,000

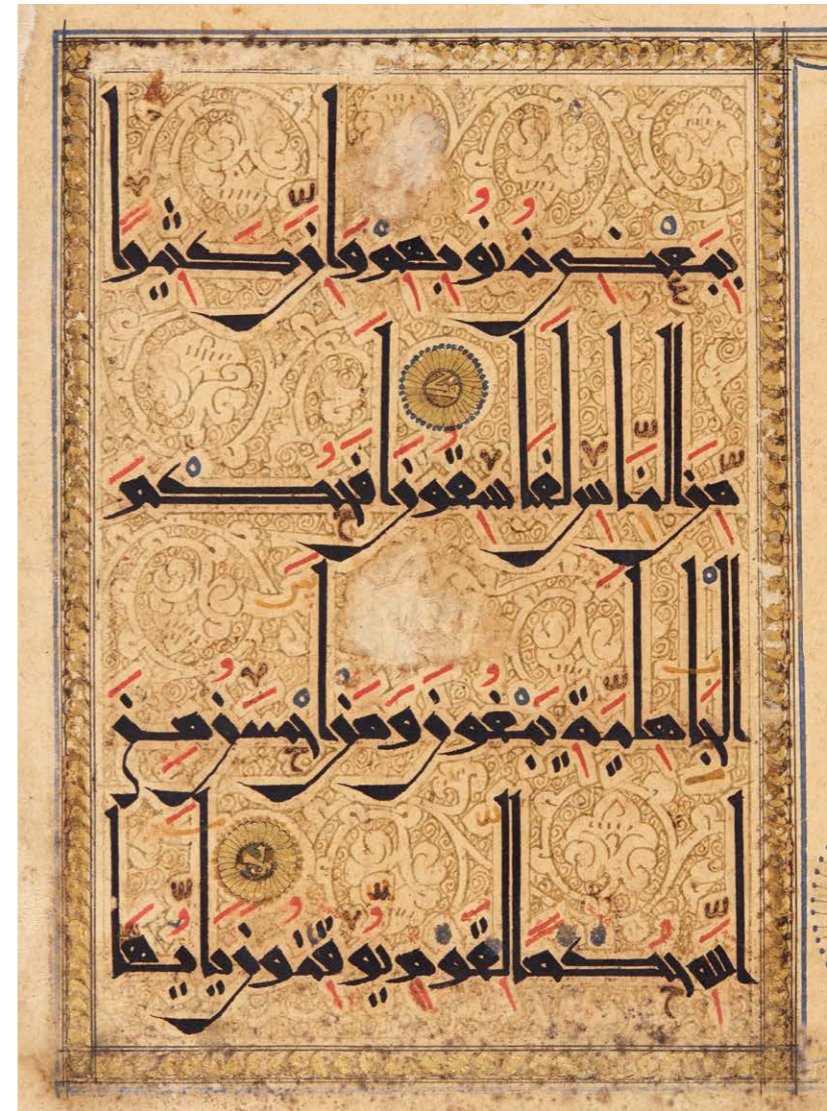
(Right)

*A fine Ottoman tombak chamfron*

Turkey, 16th/17th century

58.5cm.

Estimate £100,000–150,000



An important illuminated Qur'an leaf in eastern Kufic script  
Persia or Central Asia, circa 1075-1125 AD  
34 by 24cm.  
Estimate £200,000-300,000

PROVENANCE

H.N. Bier, London, 17 May 1971, invoice no.8.  
Acquired from Charles Ewart, 16 March 1971.  
Sotheby's London, 7 December 1970, Catalogue of Highly Important Oriental Manuscripts  
and Miniatures, The Property of the Kevorkian Foundation, lot 3.

LITERATURE

S. Nardi, R. Hasson, E. Ben-Dov and G. Moriah, L.A. Mayer Memorial Jerusalem,  
Jerusalem, 1976, p.7.



*A large lustre pottery bowl depicting Prince Faridun on Birmaya*  
Persia, Rey, 12th century  
14cm. height; 28.3cm. diam.  
Estimate £50,000–80,000

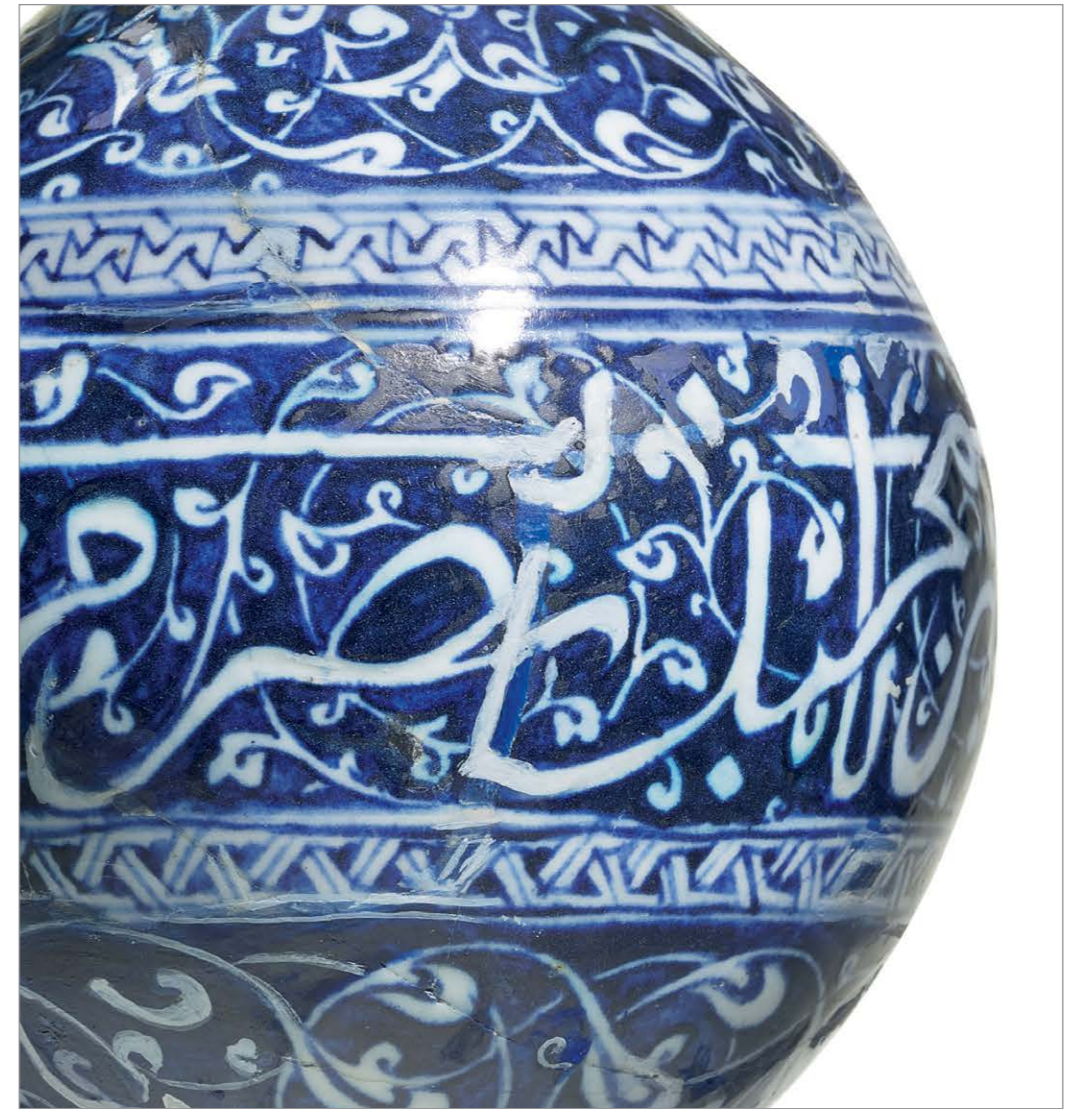
PROVENANCE  
Entered the museum May 1969.



*A rare and important silver-inlaid Aqqoyunlu turban helmet*  
Turkey or Persia, second half 15th century  
33cm. height; 23cm. diam.  
Estimate £400,000–600,000

PROVENANCE

H.N. Bier, acquired at Sotheby's London, 15 July 1968, lot 113,  
'The Property of the Kevorkian Foundation'.



*An early Iznik blue and white calligraphic pottery hanging ornament*  
Turkey, circa 1480  
15cm height; 12cm. diam.  
Estimate £150,000–200,000

PROVENANCE

J. Acheroff, Paris, 20 December 1963, invoice no.17.

LITERATURE

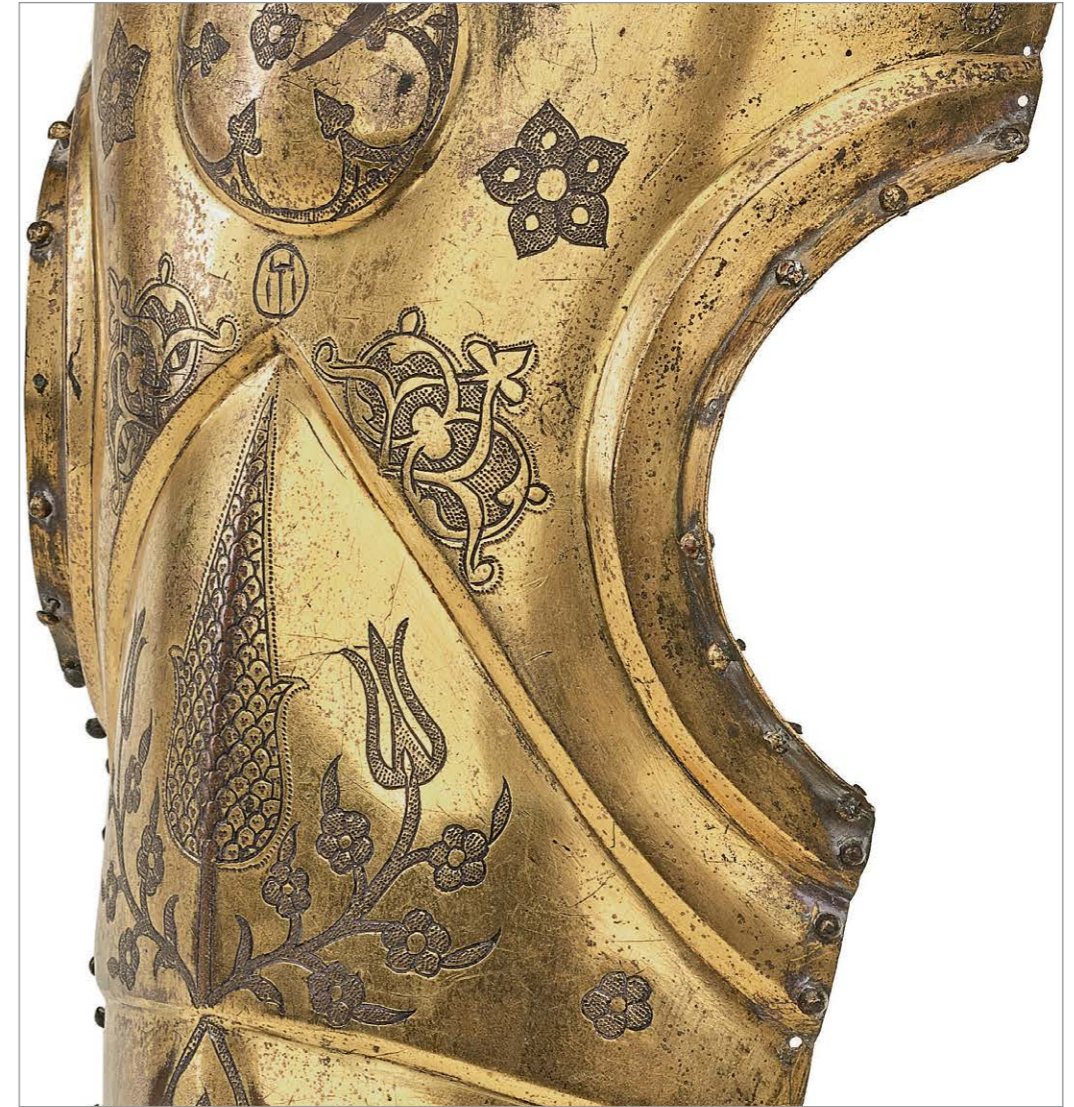
Raby et al, *Iznik: the pottery of Ottoman Turkey*, London, 1989,  
p.150, no.277.



*A carpet with 'Star' medallions*  
Oushak region, West Anatolia, late 16th century  
403 by 218cm.  
Estimate £70,000–100,000

PROVENANCE  
The Persian Carpet Galleries, Lefevre & Partners, London, February 1977.

LITERATURE  
Lefevre & Partners, *Turkish Carpets from the 16th to the 19th century*,  
London, 4 February 1977.  
R. Ettinghausen, *Ancient Carpets from the Collection of the L.A. Mayer Memorial  
Institute for Islamic Art, Jerusalem, 1977, Cat. No.4 and detail front cover.*



*A fine Ottoman tombak chamfron*  
Turkey, 16th/17th century  
58.5cm.  
Estimate £100,000–150,000

PROVENANCE  
H.N. Bier, London, 12 June 1973, invoice no.7.  
Christie's London 7 May 1973, lot 97.





*An Ottoman silk and metal-thread brocade panel (kemha) with undulating saz leaves*  
Turkey, 17th century  
135 by 70cm.  
Estimate £30,000–50,000

PROVENANCE

R. Ettinghausen, acquired from A. Minassian, New York, 4 March 1964

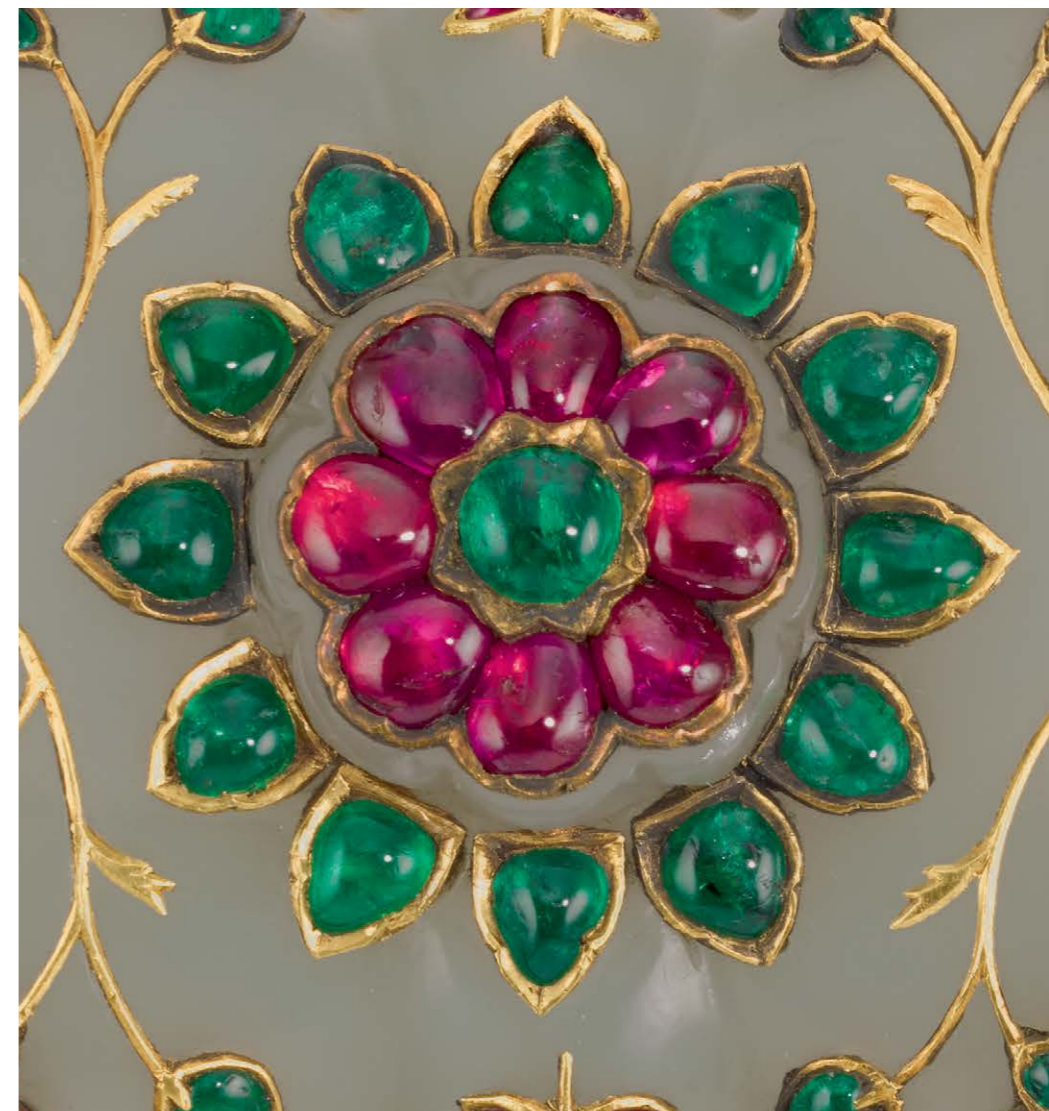


*A Mughal carved rock crystal bowl*  
India, 18th century  
6.8cm. height; 12cm. diam.  
Estimate £25,000–35,000

PROVENANCE

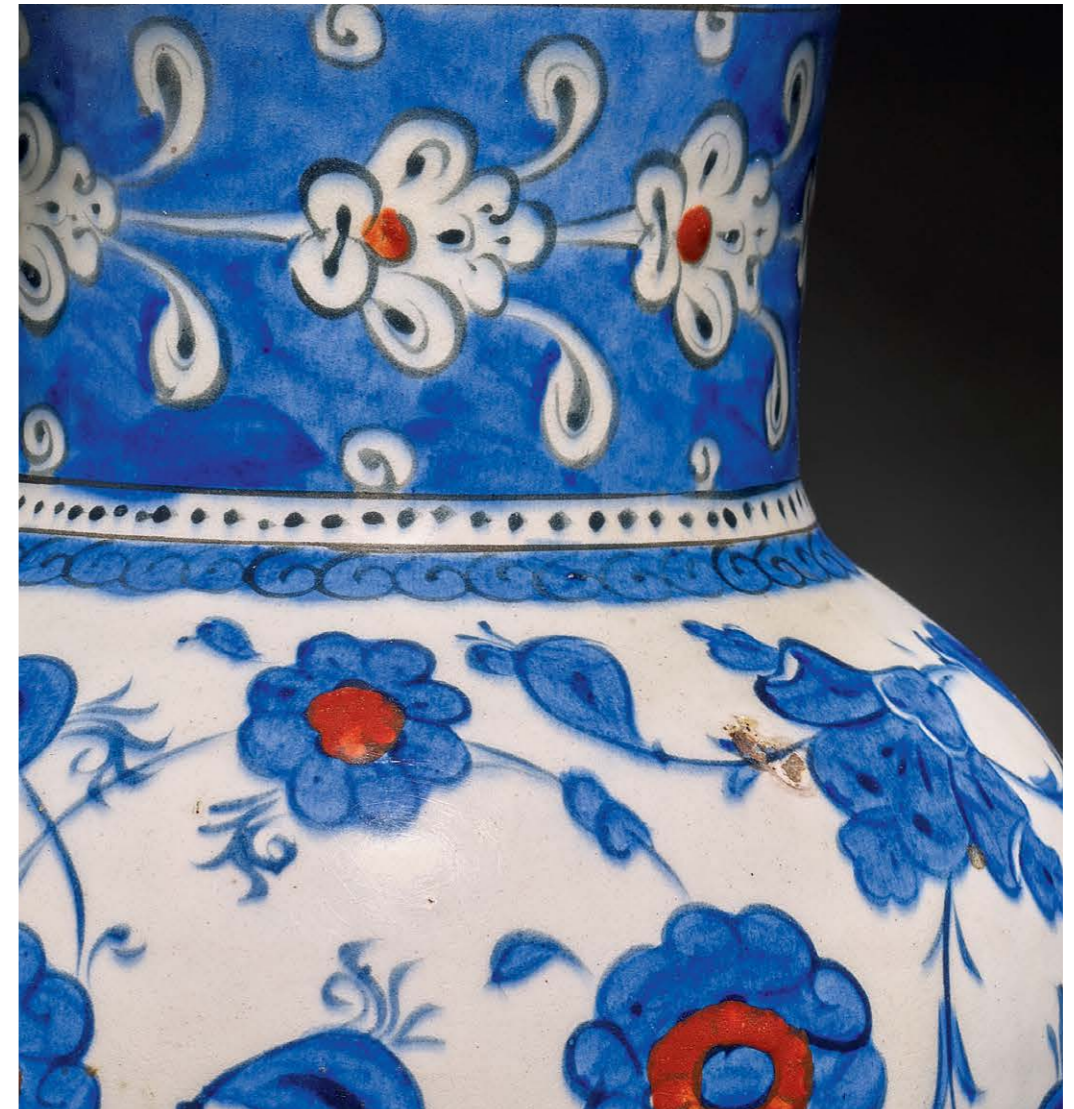
H.N. Bier, London, 9 December 1977.

Ex-collection Mayer Amschel de Rothschild, Mentmore Towers, Buckinghamshire.  
Sotheby Parke Bernet, The Mentmore Collection, vol.2, 23 May 1977, lot 1894.



*A Mughal gem-set jade box with lid*  
India, 19th century  
3.6 by 10 by 5.7cm.  
Estimate £20,000–30,000

PROVENANCE  
Gift from Nicolas Landau (1887–1979).  
Entered the museum September 1979.



*A blue and white Iznik pottery jar*  
Turkey, 16th century  
24.5cm.  
Estimate £50,000–70,000

**PROVENANCE**

J. Soustiel, Paris, 18 January 1971, invoice no.9.  
Ex-collection Édouard Aynard, France (1837-1913).  
Ex-collection Dikran G. Kelekian (1867-1951).

**LITERATURE**

N. Atasoy and J. Raby, *Iznik: the pottery of Ottoman Turkey*,  
London, 1989, p.252, no.522.



*A Siirt silver and gold inlaid brass candlestick*  
Eastern Anatolia, 13th/14th century  
20.5cm.  
Estimate £40,000–60,000

**PROVENANCE**

J. Soustiel, Paris, 14 December 1963, invoice no.10.  
Ex-collection Édouard Aynard, Lyon, France (1837-1913).  
Ex-collection Andre Derain (1880-1954).



*An Ottoman jade-hilted dagger with openwork blade and nielloed silver scabbard bearing the tughra of Sultan Mehmed IV (r.1648-87)*  
Turkey, 17th century  
32.8cm.  
Estimate £40,000–60,000

PROVENANCE  
Rosenberg and Stiebel, New York, 14 May 1968.



*A Mamluk silver-inlaid brass candlestick*  
Egypt, 14th century  
29cm. height; 26cm. diam.  
Estimate £30,000–50,000

PROVENANCE  
J. Soustiel, Paris, 18 January 1971, invoice no.26.

کَرْدَانْدَرِ وَفَعِیْنِ بِرِیَسْتِ قَرِیْحِ مَالِیْنِ مَحْ لَوْ سَفِنْدِ بَا اَوْ سَرُو نَتَوَانْدِ زِدْ زَوْدِ کِی بِرِائْتِشِ نَمِنْدِ  
 اَدَبِ کَرَفْتِیْدِ بَاشْدِ سَاکِنِ کَزْدَهٗ **بَرِیَسْتِ نَمِنْدِ** کَرْدِ دِهٖ بَرِازَنْدِ وَجَائِیْ زَاوِیْزَنْدِ لَبْتَهٗ زَا لَبْجَا  
 نَمِنْدِ **جِشْمِ نَمِنْدِ** رَاسْتِ بَرِ رَاسْتِ وَجِبِّ بَرِ جِبِّ بِیْدِ نَمِنْدِ رَدِ سَاکِنِ کُنْدِ **دِهٖ نَمِنْدِ** دَرِ جِشْمِ  
 لَبْتِ سَبَبِیْدِ رَا بَرِ کُنْدِ **جِشْمِ نَمِنْدِ** خَشْکِ لَرْدِ بِرِائْتِشِ مَنْدِ مَادِ وَدِ بَصْرُو رَسَدَنْ سَاکِنِ شَرِیْحِ  
 وَ لَرِ شَعْرِ رَا دَرِ زَابِ نَمَانْدِ مَنْدِ نَمِنْدِ سَبَبِارِ بَرِ جَمْعِ شَوْنْدِ

## زَهْرَهٗ عِنْتِ نَمِنْدِ

سَفِنْدِ رَجُو زَبَلِ رَا بَرِ کَرْدِ وَ زَوْدِ تَلْمَهٗ لَمِنْدِ  
 وَ دَرِ زَابِ شَوْدِ اِنْ گَسِ مَیْرِدِ وَ اَلْمَرْدِ زَوْدِ  
 تَلْمَهٗ لَمِنْدِ کُنْدِ وَ دَرِ زَابِ شَوْدِ سَفِنْدِ مَیْرِدِ  
 وَ سَفِنْدِ مَرْدِ وَ قَضِیْبِ دَا رَدِ مَانْدِ سَمَارِ  
**اِنْکِی لَوْنِشِ اَوْ کَرْمِ اسْتِ لَرْدِ رَجِه**



سیوم و اگر ملک کرده یک مثال خوردند قوت جمیع زبادت کرد اند و شهوت برانگردد و گوشت او را بر کونگ

## زَهْرَهٗ عِنْتِ نَمِنْدِ



تَلْمَهٗ لَمِنْدِ  
 وَ اَلْمَرْدِ زَوْدِ  
 سَفِنْدِ مَیْرِدِ  
 مَانْدِ سَمَارِ  
 ن لَرْدِ رَجِه

A Pair of Skinks (Saqaqur): an illustrated folio from the *Manafi' al-Hayawan* of Ibn Bakhtishu  
 Western Persia, Ilkhanid, circa 1300-10  
 23.6 by 17.6cm.  
 Estimate £20,000–30,000

PROVENANCE  
 H.N. Bier, acquired at Sotheby's London, 15 July 1968, lot 113,  
 'The Property of the Kevorkian Foundation'.





*A Raqqa turquoise-glazed pottery floor table*  
Syria, 12th/13th century  
28.5 by 27cm.  
Estimate £40,000–60,000

PROVENANCE  
Joseph Soustiel (d.1990), Paris, 18 January 1971, invoice no.2.



*A Mughal shaped carpet fragment*  
North India, first quarter 17th century  
274 by 161cm. approx. at extremities  
Estimate £20,000–30,000

PROVENANCE

Lefevre & Partners, 3 February 1978.  
Ex-collection the Maharaja of Jaipur, sold 1960s.

LITERATURE

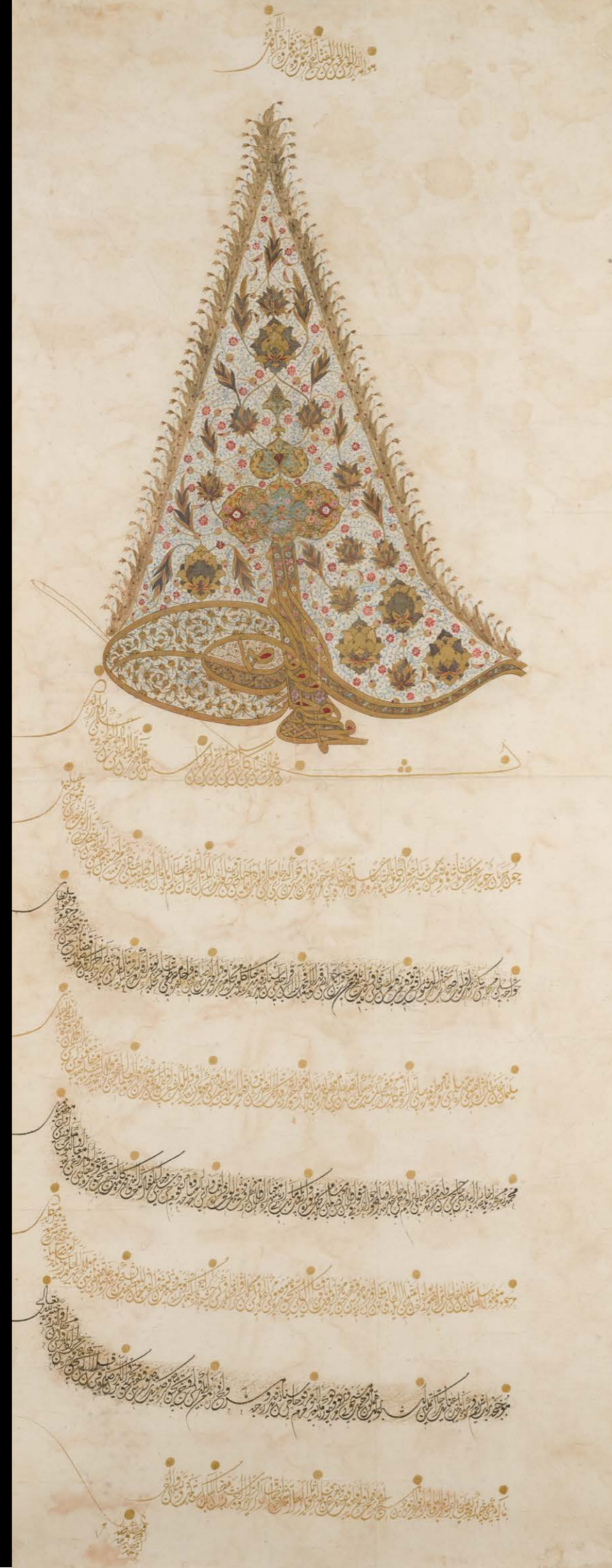
A.J.D. Campbell, *Report on Carpets in the Collection of the Maharaja of Jaipur*, 1929, unpublished, Campbell 176 (the complete carpet).  
R. Ettinghausen, *Ancient Carpets from the Collection of the L.A. Mayer Memorial Institute for Islamic Art, Jerusalem*, 1977, Cat. no.15.  
Lefevre & Partners, *Auction catalogue, London*, 3 February 1978, lot 5 (this fragment).



A 'Polonaise' silk and metal rug  
Isfahan, Central Persia, first half 17th century  
210 by 139cm. approx.  
Estimate £30,000–50,000

PROVENANCE  
Rosenberg and Stibel, New York, 19 August 1974.  
Ex- collection Baron Maurice de Rothschild, Paris.

LITERATURE  
R. Ettinghausen, *Ancient Carpets from the Collection of the L.A. Mayer  
Memorial Institute for Islamic Art, Jerusalem, 1977, Cat. no.3.*



An illuminated Ottoman Firman bearing  
the tughra of Sultan Mehmed IV (r.1648-87)  
Turkey, Istanbul, dated 1093 AH/1682-83 AD  
145 by 57cm.  
Estimate £60,000-80,000

PROVENANCE  
H.N. Bier, London, 25 July 1972.  
Ex-collection Martin Breslauer (1871-1940).



*A rare and important Mamluk enamelled glass footed bowl*  
Egypt or Syria, 13th century  
17.2cm. height; 18cm. max. diam.  
Estimate £60,000–80,000

**PROVENANCE**

Ex-collection George Eumorfopoulos (1863-1939).  
Sold by Order of Mrs Eumorfopoulos and of the Executors of George Eumorfopoulos Esq., Sotheby & Co.  
London, The Eumorfopoulos Collections, 5 June 1940, lot 85 & pl.85.

**EXHIBITED**

International Exhibition of Persian Art, Royal Academy of Arts, London, 7 January-7 March, 1931.

**LITERATURE**

A.U. Pope, 'Persian Glass' in *Apollo* 12, 1930, pp.391-5.  
C.J. Lamm, *Mittelalterliche Glaser*, Berlin, 1930, v.I, p.374, v.II, Pl.161, 2.  
Catalogue of the International Exhibition of Persian Art, London, 1931, cat. no.291H.  
A.U. Pope, *A Survey Of Persian Art From Prehistoric Times To The Present*, London, 1938-39, pl.1446A.



An Ottoman green silk calligraphic textile  
from the Tomb of the Prophet Muhammad  
Turkey, 17th/18th century  
122 by 68cm.  
Estimate £15,000–25,000

PROVENANCE  
H.N. Bier, London, 10 November 1969, invoice no.3.



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