

Wars and Weapons. Catalogue

Cat. No. W1

HNM 08.03.86a, see Fig. 4

Shamshir with scabbard, Iran, c. 18th CE

Iron, steel, wood, leather; forged

Size (cm): l. 85

Sabre with curved blade (72 cm). Typical *shamshir* hilt with cross guard. Visible tang due to missing grip. Scabbard made of wood and covered with leather.



Cat. No. W2

HNM 08.03.86b, see Fig. 5

Poulwar with scabbard, Pakistan/Afghanistan 19th-20th CE

Iron, steel; cast, forged

Size (cm): l. 83

Slightly curved blade (71 cm). The hilt is made of iron and has a disc-shaped pommel capped by a hemispherical knob set with a ring for the wrist strap. One of the abstract dragon heads of the cross guard is missing. Plain and undecorated scabbard made of sheet metal with ring for carrying.

Cat. No. W3

HNM 08.03.86c, see Fig. 6

Poulwar, Pakistan/Afghanistan, 19th-20th CE

Iron, steel; cast, forged

Size (cm): l. 93.5

Sabre with curved blade (78 cm), which shows three fullers. The hilt is made of iron and has a disc-shaped pommel capped by a hemispherical knob set with a ring for the wrist strap. Crossguard ends with abstract dragon heads, while the rain guard is palmette-shaped.

Cat. No. W4

HNM 08.05.86, see Figs. 7; 8

Light cavalry sabre with scabbard, Afghanistan, 20th CE

Iron, steel, brass, leather, wood; cast, forged; engraved, etched

Size (cm): l. 96.7

Sabre with slightly curved blade (83.5 cm) of Western type. The hilt is made of brass, wood and black leather fixed by wire. The blade bears an inscription in a cartouche revealing

the name of Mohammad Zahir Shah (A), who ruled Afghanistan between 1933 and 1973. The cartouche is flanked by compositions of leaves. The blade bears a further inscription near the hilt revealing the year 1323 (1905/06). The left side of the blade shows a similar cartouche decorated with an architectural element instead of an inscription.

A: *al-mutawakkil 'alā 'Ilāh Mir Shah Moḥammad Za'ir Šāh.*

Cat. No. W5 + W6

HNM 08.04.86a + b, see Figs. 9; 10

Khaybar knife, Afghanistan, 19th-20th CE

Iron, steel, horn; forged

Size (cm): l. 71 and l. 73

Long knives with a straight and heavy single-edged blade (59 cm, HNM 08.04.86a), characterised by a wide rid at the back edge, a so-called T-spine which is typical for *khaybar* knives. The grip, made of horn, is riveted to the tang.

Cat. No. W7

HNM 08.07.86, see Fig. 11

Shirt of mail, Indo-Persian, 19th CE

Iron, steel; wire drawing, riveting

Size (cm): h. 65; l. 90; w. 60

Shirt of mail joined together by small rings (d. c. 1 cm), whereby each ring is linked with four others. The shirt has short sleeves and a vertical slit down from the neck in front.

Cat. No. W8

HNM 08.06.86c, see Fig. 12

Shield, Iran or India, 19th CE

Leather, brass, iron; cast

Size (cm): h. 5.5; d. 24.5

Shield with convex surface and flat rim made of strong leather (0.76 cm). It is decorated with a centrally placed relief decoration of concentric circles around which are four brass bosses, one of them missing. These are shaped like lotus buds and fixed to an additional piece of leather. On the back are four eyelets to fix leather strings to serve as handles. Beneath the leather strings a leather padding is fixed to bolster the hand.

Cat. No. W9

HNM 08.06.86a, see Noelle-Karimi Fig. 16;

Gütschow Fig. 31

Shield, Afghanistan, 19th CE

Leather, brass; cast

Size (cm): d. 35.5



Shield with convex surface and broad flat rim made of strong leather (0.7 cm). A centrally placed relief of concentric circles serves as decoration. Around this were four brass bosses, two of them are missing. The remaining two differ in shape and decoration; one is lotus-bud-shaped, the other hemispherical. On the back two eyelets are preserved which served to fix leather strings for holding the shield. Both sides of the shield show traces of a lacquer or resine.

Cat. No. W10

HNM 08.06.86b

Shield, Afghanistan, 19th CE

Leather

Size (cm): h. 6; d. 27.5



Cat. No. W10

Shield with convex surface and flat rim made of strong leather (1 cm). It is decorated with a centrally placed relief decoration of concentric circles around which four bosses were fixed, all of them now missing. On the back four eyelets serve to fix leather strings to handle the shield. Beneath the leather strings a leather padding is attached to bolster the hand.

Cat. No. W11

HNM 87.006, see Noelle-Karimi Fig. 17
Shield, Afghanistan, 19th-20th CE
Brass; incised
Size (cm): h. 2.7; d. 20.5

Small circular shield with convex surface and four hemispherical bosses (d. 3 cm). The shield is incised and decorated with a central roundel, which is divided into four quadrants, each containing a deer with its head bent backwards. The decoration of the shield is overall dominated by floral motifs. On the back four eyelets are holding two strings which were used as handles. In the centre a padding is fixed to bolster the hand.



Cat. No. W11

Cat. No. W12

HNM 87.009, see Çakır Phillip title image and Fig. 13
Shield, Iran or Afghanistan, 19th CE
Brass; incised
Size (cm): d. 23
Small circular shield with convex surface and four hemispherical brass bosses (d. 3 cm). The shield is incised and decorated with a central roundel, which is divided into four



quadrants each containing a deer with its head bent backwards. The decoration of the shield is overall dominated by floral motifs. Furthermore it shows a pseudo inscription band around the edge. On the back four eyelets are holding two strings which were used as grips. The

padding in the centre used as bolster is missing.

Cat. No. W13

HNM 87.007, see Fig. 14
Shield, Iran or Afghanistan, 19th CE
Brass; incised



Size (cm): h. 7.5; d. 35.5
Shield with convex surface and four hemispherical bosses. It is decorated with a centrally placed relief decoration of concentric circles containing floral motifs. On the back four eyelets are holding two strings which were used as grips. In the centre a padding is



Cat. No. W14

fixed to bolster the hand. The shield is almost identical to HNM 87.008 (cat. no. W14).

Cat. No. W14

HNM 87.008, see Noelle-Karimi Fig. 18
Shield, Afghanistan (?), 20th CE
Brass; chased, incised
Size (cm): h. 6.7; d. 37

Shield with convex surface and four hemispherical bosses. It is decorated with a centrally placed relief decoration of concentric circles containing floral motifs. On the back are four eyelets for holding two strings which were used as handles. The padding in the centre fixed to bolster the hand is missing. The shield is almost identical to HNM 87.007 (cat. no. W13).

Cat. No. W15

HNM 89.190, see Figs. 16; 17; Noelle-Karimi, Fig. 20
Cannon, Iran or Afghanistan, 19th CE
Iron, wood; cast
Size (cm): l. (total) 230; l. (cannon) 112; d. 8 w. (wooden cart) 116



Cat. No. W16



Cat. No. W17

Cannon with ornamental decorations and inscriptions on the cast barrel. The inscriptions reveal among others the signature of the armourer: *Sufi Biq Muhammad*. It is mounted on a modern wooden stand in the shape of a gun cart.

Cat. No. W16

HNM 08.15.86, see Figs. 18; 19 Noelle-Karimi Fig. 19; Gütschow Fig. 27
Rifle (*Jazail*), Afghanistan
second half of the 19th CE

Steel, wood, gold; forged, engraved, *koftgari*
This kind of rifle is known in Pashto as *Jazail*. The muzzle-loading firearm has an octagonal barrel made of steel and a wooden one-piece stock. It is equipped with a percussion or cap lock, which succeeded the flintlock. Afghanistan, being considerably excluded from technical advances, was introduced to this development through the Anglo-Afghan Wars (1839-1842 and 1878-1880), when the British occupation with Indian soldiers brought the technology to Afghanistan. The plate of the cap lock

is ornamented with engravings. Both ends of the barrel are ornamented in *koftgari* (slightly inlayed or topically applied gold) with arabesques winding up as slender borders, showing Persian-pendentive-shaped fork-bladed tendrils with cup-shaped ends – as well as western seeming features. The ornamentation in *koftgari* also covers the rear sight.

Cat. No. W17

HNM 08.14.86a, see Figs. 20; 22
Rifle (*Jazail*), Afghanistan, end of the 19th or beginning of the 20th CE
Steel, wood, brass, leather; forged, engraved
This muzzle loading firearm has an octagonal barrel made of steel and a wooden one-piece stock. It is equipped with a percussion or cap lock, which succeeded the flintlock. A fork rest is mounted to the front shaft. Around the barrel and shaft are four brass rings with a slight cup-shaped part, so-called capucines. A leather sling is attached to the two sling swivels. The lock plate is engraved with two inscriptions in Persian, decipherable

as 'Herat' and '*amal Abd al-Rahman*' (work of Abd al-Rahman). The museum holds two other almost identical rifles by the same armorer (HNM 08.14.86b + c; see Gütschow Figs. 26, 28 and cat. no. W18).

Cat. No. W18

HNM 08.14.86c, see Figs. 21; 23
Rifle (*Jazail*), Afghanistan, end of the 19th or beginning of the 20th CE



Steel, wood, brass, leather; forged, engraved
This muzzle-loading firearm has an octagonal barrel made of steel and a wooden one-piece stock. It is equipped with a percussion or cap lock, which succeeded the flintlock. A fork rest is mounted to the front shaft. Around barrel and shaft are four brass rings with a slight cup-shaped part, so-called capucines. A leather sling is attached to the two sling swivels. The lock plate is engraved with two inscriptions in Persian, decipherable as 'Herat' and '*amal Abd al-Rahman*' (work of Abd al-Rahman).

Cat. No. W19

HNM 08.16.86c, see Figs. 24; 25
Rifle (*Jazail*), India or Afghanistan, 19th CE
Steel, iron, wood, brass, silver; forged, engraved, inlaid



This *jazail* is provided with a typical Indian barrel. It is fluted with straight and spiral channels, interrupted by plain decorative ribs in silver inlay. The Indian barrel features a characteristic type of muzzle, often

resembling a stylised dragon head. The barrel is fixed to the stock with capucines in iron and brass.

Cat. No. W20

HNM 08.16.86b, see Figs. 26; 27
Rifle (*Jazail*), Afghanistan, 19th CE
Steel, iron, wood, brass, silver; forged, engraved, inlaid



This muzzle loading firearm has an octagonal barrel made of steel and a wooden one-piece stock. It is equipped with a percussion or cap lock, which succeeded the flintlock. Around barrel and shaft are two narrow brass and two broad iron capucines. One of them shows an eyelet for attaching a sling. The surface of the barrel reveals false damascening. The lock of this rifle appears to be a copy of a British Enfield rifle (see cat. no. W22).

Cat. No. W21

HNM 08.13.86a, see Figs. 28; 29
Musket with flint lock
Great Britain, 19th CE
Steel, wood, brass; forged, engraved
This firearm is a British India Pattern musket. Its lock plate bears a crown and the inscription 'tower proof'. This musket belongs to the type of muzzle-loaded military muskets produced for the British Army and the East India Company. These muskets were in use to a high extent and were produced for nearly sixty years.



Cat. No. W22

HNM 08.12.86b, see Fig. 30
Rifle, Great Britain, 20th CE
Steel, iron, wood, brass; forged, engraved
This firearm is a British Lee-Enfield rifle. Its barrel bears a mark, which could be a coat of arms and the number 5537. In the first half of the 20th CE this rifle type was the main military firearm used in the British Empire and the Commonwealth.

Cat. No. W23

HNM 08.18.86c, see Figs. 31–33
Rifle, Czechoslovakia, 20th CE
Steel, wood; forged, engraved
This firearm is a German Mauser 98k rifle, which was produced for Iran in Brno, Czechoslovakia. The barrel bears the coat of arms of Persia (1907–1925) and an inscription revealing the place of production in Brno, together with the Persian numbers ۱۱۲۲ (1122), which could be an arsenal number.

Cat. No. W24

HNM 08.18.86a, see Figs. 34; 35
Rifle, Russia, 1922
Steel, wood; forged, engraved
This firearm is a Russian Mosin Nagant 1891 rifle produced in Izhevsk. The firearm is a British Lee-Enfield rifle. Its barrel bears a mark, which could be a coat of arms and the number 5537. In the first half of the 20th CE this rifle type was the main military firearm used in the British Empire and the Commonwealth.

Cat. No. W25

HNM 08.08.86b, see Fig. 36
Powder flask, Afghanistan, 19th CE
Leather, wood, metal
Size (cm): h. 21.5; d. 16.8



Powder flask in the shape of a pilgrim bottle. The content of powder flasks was fine gunpowder or meal powder. These were only required in small quantities for firing flintlocks. The mouth of the powder flask is narrow and only allows to dispense the fine powder sparsely.

This flask shows techniques known from the art of leather binding. On the convex front side it is ornamented with an eight-pointed star motif and on the flat backside with a tree-of-life motif incised with long curved tendrils. Two metal hooks on the back and a leather string serve to fix the bottle to a belt. A hook and a pin on the shoulder probably served to fix a leather strap to close the bottle.

Cat. No. W26

HNM 08.08.86a, see Fig. 37
Powder flask, Afghanistan, 19th CE
Wood, leather, metal
Size (cm): h. 25.5; d. 21
Powder flask in the shape of a pilgrim bottle. The flask has a convex front, a flat backside and a tapering neck. Two metal



hooks on the back and a leather string serve to fix the bottle to a belt. A leather strap fixed on the shoulder probably served to close the bottle.

Cat. No. W27

HNM 08.09.86a, see Fig. 38
Bullet pouch, Afghanistan, 19th CE
Leather; embroidered
Size (cm): h. 6.5; w. 18
Rectangular leather bag made from two pieces. Such pouches were initially used to carry bullets used in muzzle loaded weapons. They may later have been in use for carrying rifle cartridges.

The flap closing the pouch is decorated by seams creating a relief pattern of vertical and horizontal lines and a pointed medallion placed in the centre. In addition, embroidered oblong ovals and s-shaped elements are



aligned on the flap. The pouch is provided with a strap on the backside in order to attach it to a belt.

Cat. No. W28

HNM 08.09.86b, see Fig. 39
Bullet pouch, Afghanistan, 19th CE
Leather; embroidered?
Size (cm): h. 6.5; w. 10.8
Rectangular leather bag with flap and leather string to close it. The flap closing the pouch is concentrically decorated by seams creating a relief pattern. The pouch is provided with a strap on the backside in order to attach it to a belt.