

Dating A Collection Of Bronze Trays

(A Study on an Unpublished Collection From Bamberg Museum of Islamic Art

Abstract

Bamberg Museum is a private trust run by the Bumiller Art Foundation. It preserves the Bumiller Collection of Islamic Art which has been founded since 1981 with the largest collection of Early Islamic bronzes in the world essentially displays artworks of the eighth to the thirteenth century. The collection possesses all types of household furniture including bottles, oil lamps, incense burners; table wares such as trays, bowls, jugs; cosmetics equipment like jewellery, mirrors and animal figures. They were mainly related to workshops belonged to the states of Iran, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and nearby areas. The exhibition halls are located in Bamberg's historic district in a sixteenth century building which has been recently restored specially for this purpose. The part of the collection in display gives a detailed overview of the development of decorative motifs and techniques from the seventh through the thirteenth centuries. Metalwork like other material culture has been considered for long as an indicator of constant interaction between man and material. To the former fact, the bronze collection of Bumiller provides evidence: objects not only display a high technical quality but also they reflect a combination of decorative motifs and inscriptions that offer a vision of their native province.

The aim of this paper is therefore to collect and organize the reflections perceived in these objects and to shed light on the targeted pieces by dating them by comparison with contemporary dated pieces and comparing them with pieces whose origins is certain to indicate their native province.

Keywords : Metalwork, Khurasan, School, trays, bronze.