

BOW



Bow

Accession Number:

AKM641

Place:

Iran
Dimensions:

92 cm

Date:

1750–1800
Materials and Technique:

Lacquer

The archer’s bow was a symbol of kingship as well as a tool of the hunt. This elaborate lacquer bow has been painted and covered by a clear sandarac-based varnish that protects the painting and imparts luminescence. Persian literary sources from the sixteenth to nineteenth centuries refer to the varnish as rawghan-i kaman, or bow gloss. This reference, coupled with the fascinating fact that the Timurid Sultan Husayn’s keeper of books (kitabdar) and manager of manuscript production Mirak Naqqash (d. after 1507) produced bows and came from a family of Herati bow-makers, has led Stanley to suggest that the earliest lacquer book covers may have been produced by him using bow gloss (Stanley in Thompson and Canby 2003, p. 189).

- [Collection Highlights \(/collection/collection-highlights\)](/collection/collection-highlights)
- [Explore Collection Highlights \(/collection/search-collection\)](/collection/search-collection)
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FEATURED WORK OF ART



(<https://www.agakhanmuseum.org/collection/artifact/plaque-akm616>).

Plaque

This steel plaque would have been part of the openwork components of a shrine door or decorative frieze with the names of the Shia imams.

[Learn more »](https://www.agakhanmuseum.org/collection/artifact/plaque-akm616) (<https://www.agakhanmuseum.org/collection/artifact/plaque-akm616>).

NEWS & EVENTS



(<https://www.agakhanmuseum.org/learn/event/gentle-yoga-aga-khan-museum-2017>).

Gentle Yoga in the Aga Khan Museum

April 12–June 28: Strengthen and pamper yourself during an hour of gentle movement in the Aga Khan Museum's sunlit atrium.

[Learn more »](https://www.agakhanmuseum.org/learn/event/gentle-yoga-aga-khan-museum-2017) (<https://www.agakhanmuseum.org/learn/event/gentle-yoga-aga-khan-museum-2017>)



[\(/performing-arts/event/spring-breeze-turkey\)](/performing-arts/event/spring-breeze-turkey)

Spring Breeze from Turkey

April 21: Enjoy an evening of song and dance with Turkey's National Opera and Ballet, and the renowned Hoy-Tur Turkish Folk Dance Group!

[Learn more » \(/performing-arts/event/spring-breeze-turkey\)](/performing-arts/event/spring-breeze-turkey)



(<https://www.agakhanmuseum.org/performing-arts/event/world-fiddle-day>).

World Fiddle Day
May 20: Celebrate this much-loved instrument in all its forms through morning workshops, a jam session, and an evening concert!
[Learn more »](https://www.agakhanmuseum.org/performing-arts/event/world-fiddle-day) (<https://www.agakhanmuseum.org/performing-arts/event/world-fiddle-day>).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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| Mar 2017 (https://www.agakhanmuseum.org/collection/artifact/portrait-safavid-noblewoman?mini=2017-03) | | |
| Apr 2017 | | |
| May 2017 (https://www.agakhanmuseum.org/collection/artifact/portrait-safavid-noblewoman?mini=2017-05) | | |
| SUN | MON | TUE |
| 2 (https://www.agakhanmuseum.org/visit/events/poster/2017-04) | 3 (https://www.agakhanmuseum.org/visit/events/poster/2017-04) | 4 (https://www.agakhanmuseum.org/visit/events/poster/2017-04) |
| 9 (https://www.agakhanmuseum.org/visit/events/poster/2017-04) | 10 (https://www.agakhanmuseum.org/visit/events/poster/2017-04) | 11 (https://www.agakhanmuseum.org/visit/events/poster/2017-04) |
| 16 (https://www.agakhanmuseum.org/visit/events/poster/2017-04) | 17 (https://www.agakhanmuseum.org/visit/events/poster/2017-04) | 18 (https://www.agakhanmuseum.org/visit/events/poster/2017-04) |
| 23 (https://www.agakhanmuseum.org/visit/events/poster/2017-04) | 24 (https://www.agakhanmuseum.org/visit/events/poster/2017-04) | 25 (https://www.agakhanmuseum.org/visit/events/poster/2017-04) |
| 30 (https://www.agakhanmuseum.org/visit/events/poster/2017-04) | | |

[View larger calendar \(/visit/events/poster/2017-04\)](#)


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