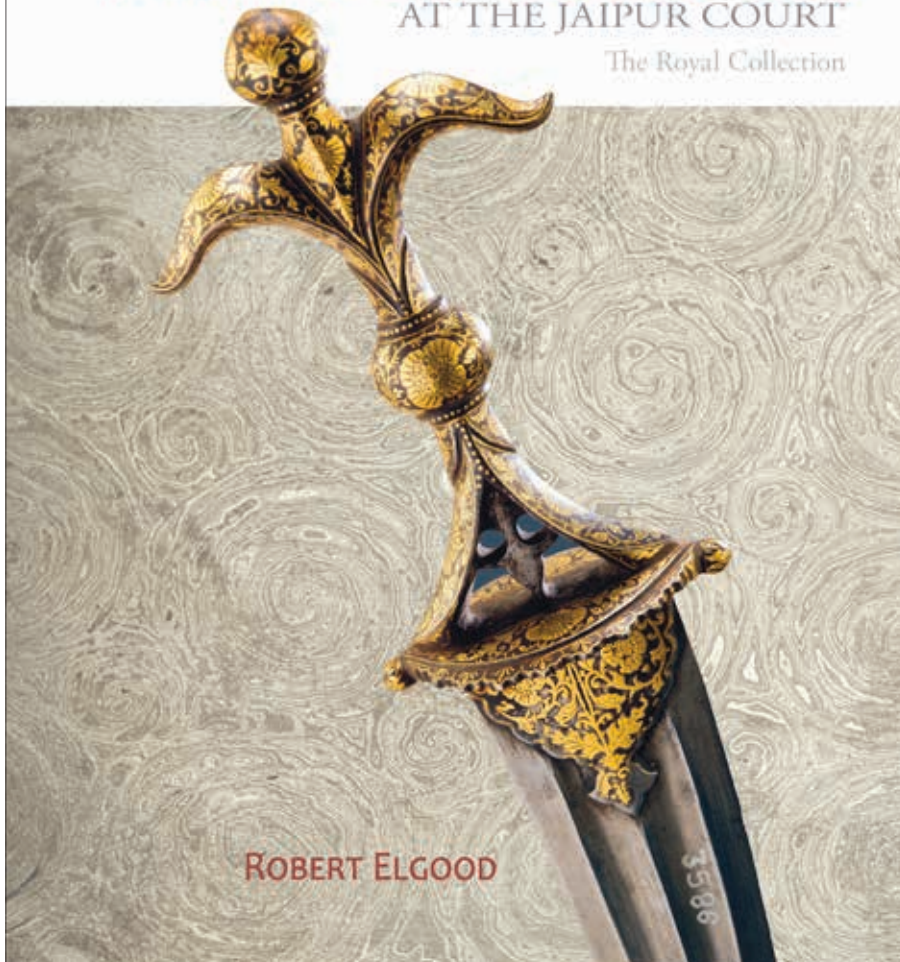


ARMS & ARMOUR

AT THE JAIPUR COURT

The Royal Collection



ROBERT ELGOOD



Dr. ROBERT ELGOOD studied Islamic History at SOAS and has a DPhil from Oxford University in Indian Anthropology before working as a consultant on Indian and Islamic arms at Sotheby's in the early 1980s. He is a freelance consultant, lecturer and the author of a number of books which can be seen on his website

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In 2007 he was invited to catalogue the armoury at Mehrangarh Fort, Jodhpur (Rajput Arms and Armour, in publication); and this Jaipur catalogue was a consequence of that research. He is currently writing a catalogue of the arms at Belmont House, Kent, the home of Lord Harris who defeated Tipu Sultan of Mysore in 1799; and writing for the al Sabah Collection, Kuwait on early Afghan and Mughal arms.

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ARMS & ARMOUR

The Royal Collection at the Jaipur City Palace

£80 Hardcover isbn 978-93-83098-77-4

This is a comprehensively illustrated and expertly written book presenting the splendid collection of mediaeval Arms and Armour at the City Palace Museum in Jaipur, part of the seat of the Maharajas of Jaipur. It is one of the largest and finest collections in India, if not the world. The weapons include various kinds of swords, double-edged cutters, daggers, knives, axes and arrows of various shapes. There are three types of guns in the collection – the matchlock, the flintlock and the percussion cap. Some of the swords in the collection are of historic importance, such as the swords inscribed with the name of Mughal emperors, Jahangir and Shah Jahan. In mediaeval times, weapons were regarded as prestigious gifts and Mughal swords were probably gifted to the rulers of Amber-Jaipur. Many personal weapons of the rulers also form part of the collection.

The excellent craftsmanship of not only the Jaipur metal workers but also its artisans are on display. The hilts of swords and knives are usually made of ivory, silver, crystal or jade carved in various forms. Many weapons are

adorned with precious and semi-precious stones. Others are enamelled – a craft which continues as a speciality of Jaipur. Many weapons also have beautiful *koft-gari* work on them. Gunpowder flasks of animal horn, leather and seashell are inlaid with delicately carved ivory and decorated with engraved motifs. Shields made of tough rhinoceros, tortoise and buffalo hides and have often been embossed and lacquered. Body armour and helmets are also specimens of fine workmanship.

This new book is without doubt a work of excellence by the pre-eminent scholar in the field, and is greatly enhanced by the wealth of supporting colour photographs.

