

Firangi. 18th to early 19th century

The 18th century hilt has a typical form, with a long spike pommel and sturdy, square quillon reinforcements. This hilt has been covered in thick gold sheet, probably in the late 19th century, and decorated with floral and animal motifs, in shallow relief.

The straight double-edged blade made from dark fine wootz retains a flexible form with a series of brass filled holes, thought to be for a talismanic purpose. The back of the blade is reinforced to its mid-point, showing opposing peacocks and geometric devices, all decorated profusely with gold koftgari in floral and creeper design. The inner padding dates from the redecoration of the hilt.

The wooden scabbard is covered in red velvet, with mounts in decorated gold.

Length without scabbard: 99 cm

Length of blade: 78 cm

Ricasso: 14.5 cm

Hilt: 20 cm

Pommel diameter: 8 cm

Width of hand guard: 11.5 cm

Length of langet: 9 cm

Literature:

Egerton, Lord of Tatton: Indian and Oriental Armour. Arms and Armour Press, reprint 1968. Plate III no 3.

Figiel, Leo S.: On Damascus Steel. Florida, USA 1991. Pp 30-1, no 6B.

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