

SSN Islamic Art and Material Culture Specialist Support Scheme – Year 2 Overview

- **4 museums supported – Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery, Durham University Oriental Museum, Hull and East Riding Museum, and Museums Sheffield**
- **Over 360 objects surveyed by collection specialists**
- **All four museums working on new displays or redisplays of their IAMC collections**
- **4 engagement reports produced suggesting ideas for projects and activity to engage the following audiences: families, teenagers, adults, general visitors, university staff and students, refugees, adults with visual impairments, ESOL groups.**
- **Early Years to Key Stage 2 reports produced suggesting activities and resources to engage school children in the museums and in school.**
- **Photography of IAMC collections at two museums**

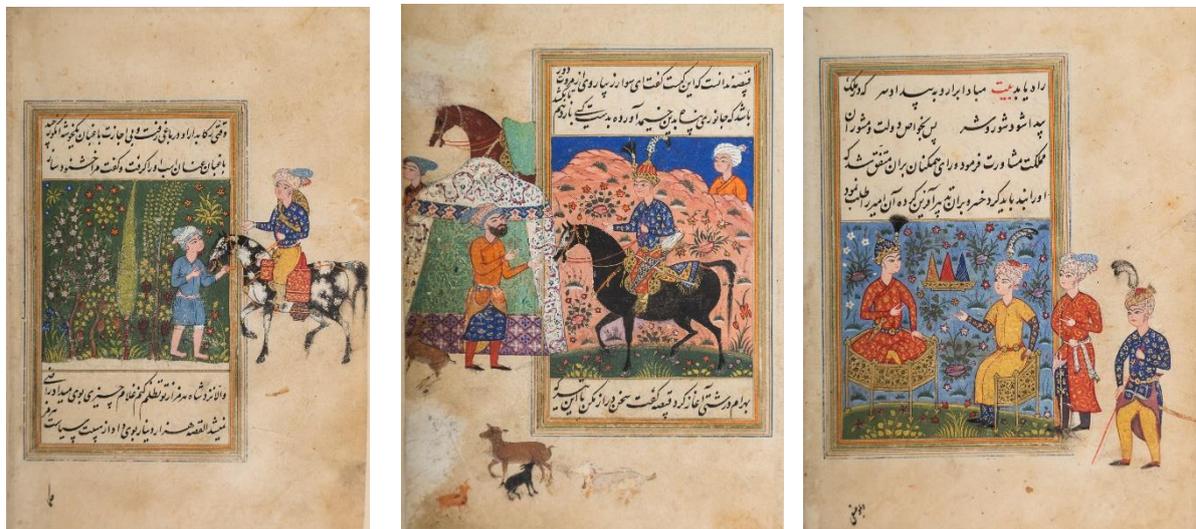
During 2016/2017 the Subject Specialist Network for Islamic Art and Material Culture (SSN IAMC) opened its specialist support scheme to museums in the South West and North of England. Successful applications were received from Blackburn Museum & Art Gallery, Durham University's Oriental Museum, Hull and East Riding Museum and Museums Sheffield.

Each museum was visited by a specialist curator who identified IAMC collections, discussed collections with staff and produced a significance framework. This was followed by support from engagement specialists who gave advice on engagement activities for schools and the general public in the form of a 'tool kit'. In addition a professional photographer worked with the museums who required a photographic record of their IAMC collections.

Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery

The Islamic Art and Material Culture collection consists of manuscripts/books and coins. The collection was donated to BMAG by Robert Edward Hart, a wealthy local collector.

- 20 IAMC objects viewed (mainly manuscripts), including an C18th illustrated and illuminated copy of the Khamza of Nizami; 3 copies of Muhammad Sulaiman al-Jazuli, Dala'il al-Khayrat dating from C17th/early C18th and a C17th Qur'an
- 20 objects photographed
- An engagement 'tool kit' produced identifying potential audiences the museum could engage using its IAMC collection, including suggestions for projects, resources and events. The report focused on the following audiences: local Muslim communities, families, adults, ESOL groups
- A Key Stage 2 'tool kit' produced detailing how the museum could use the collection to engage local primary school children. Curriculum focus – Art and Design, Maths, Science, Geography, Local History and Literacy
- A conservation assessment of 1 object, and the purchase of storage materials
- A 12 month toolkit produced for delivering a community created and curated exhibition



A selection of pages from the manuscripts from Blackburn Museum & Art Gallery

Durham University Oriental Museum

A collection of artefacts, mainly in metalwork, ceramic and textile, from Islamicate societies extending from Morocco to South Asia.

- 95 objects viewed, including 80 in store and 15 on display. The collection represents objects from Iran, Syria, Egypt and Turkey. The collection includes the following: camel-decorated *mina'i* jug, a Nishapur fantastical animal bowl, an animal-decorated bowl, a bronze mirror with sphinxes, a turquoise-glazed cat figurine, a fish shaped amulet and a rock crystal parrot on gilt-metal swing stand
- An engagement 'tool kit' produced identifying potential audiences the museum could engage using its IAMC collection, including suggestions for projects, resources and events. The report focused on the following audiences: families, adult learners, university staff and students, refugees and visitors with visual impairments.
- A Key Stage 2 'tool kit' produced detailing how the museum could use the collection to engage local primary school children through developing a handling collection and using 'gateway objects' in the permanent displays



A selection of IAMC objects from the Oriental Museum

Hull and East Riding Museum

The Islamic Art and Material Culture collection consists predominantly of ceramics and some glass ware and metal ware.

- The glass collection contained both Roman and Islamic objects. The Islamic items are from 700-1000AD. The ceramics and metal work were looked at in great detail. These included items from Nishapur and Kashan, Iran and from Raqqa, Syria. The items included bowls, jars, bottles, vessels and figurines.
- An engagement 'tool kit' produced identifying potential audiences the museum could engage using its IAMC collection, including suggestions for projects, resources and events (including those linked to a forthcoming event called Tell the World), such as public talks, blogging, a small temporary display, and activities and resources for families.
- Focus was given on ways to engage Hull's Iranian community
- A 12-15 month toolkit for delivering a community created and curated exhibition
- Materials purchased to display some of the metalwork



A selection of the IAMC ceramics from Hull and East Riding Museum

Museums Sheffield

The collection was amassed through donations and purchases throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

- The collections specialist viewed over 200 objects during his visit to the museum. The collection consists of mainly metalwork and ceramics from Islamicate societies, extending from Turkey to South Asia.
- The collection includes: Arms and armour, mostly late Safavid / Qajar, Syrian ceramics, Iranian ceramics, costume, including Afghan shoes and Turkish sandals and Medieval, Early Modern and Modern metalwork
- An engagement 'tool kit' produced identifying potential audiences the museum could engage using its IAMC collection, including suggestions for projects, resources and events. Audiences suggested included asylum seekers and refugees, the local Turkish and Iranian communities, university students, and adult learners
- Photography of the collection
- Materials purchased for the display of some of the metalwork.
- Materials purchased for workshops with refugee groups



Helmet from the IAMC collection at Museums Sheffield