

« Faint Echoes of Past Splendour – A Group of Brass Plaques from 19th-Century Qajar Iran », in : Robert Hillenbrand, ed., *Shahnama: The Visual Language of the Persian Book of Kings*. Aldershot, Ashgate, 2004, pp. 129-141.

Colin Mitchell

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- 1 This fascinating article examines 49 brass plaques – currently housed in the Royal Museum of Scotland – which had been manufactured in 19th century Qajar Iran and purchased by one William Grieve in Bombay in the early 1890s. These distinctive pieces eventually made their way to the Grieve household in Berwick before being donated to the Royal Museum of Scotland in 1946. Al-Khamis and Evans provide a methodological and inspiring analysis of these pieces, which originally hailed from a wealthy, urban household, and in doing so contemplate the significance of their various inscriptions and renditions of legendary and historical figures from a wide spectrum of religious and literary traditions. They provide more-than-convincing evidence that specific plaques (such as one showing an equestrian figure, another profiling the figure of Joseph, and another depicting Farhad working on Mount Bisitun) were indeed replicative of well-circulated icons appearing in other 19th century Qajar artistic genres: tile work, gouache, oil painting, lithographs. In conclusion, the authors focus on the mark of “Bibby, Sons and Co.” which appears on the rear of one of the plaques, and on the basis of this, are able to demonstrate how 19th century Iranian craft manufacturing was based to some extent on British-imported alloys and metals.
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Thèmes : 5.1. Monde iranophone

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