

AMIR MOHTASHEMI



Indian Quiver and Arrows

India, Late 18th to early 19th century

Quiver of leather covered with embroidered velvet, lacquered reed arrows with feather flights and steel tips.

Each arrow approx. 66cm long, quiver 59cm long.

Stock no.: A5824

The leather body of the quiver is covered with red velvet, embroidered with floral and vegetal motifs in green silk thread. Down the centre of the quiver runs a column of peacocks, facing alternate directions, divided by scrolling foliage. Two suspension loops jut out from the side of the quiver, through which a cord would have been threaded to attach around the waist. The nine arrows are lacquered with red and green bands at both ends. They are made from reeds but painted to look like bamboo. They have nocked ends, on which much of the fletching remains. The arrow points are of steel, some blunt and some spear-like. A set of arrows with similar lacquer patterns which date to the 19th century is held in the Victoria & Albert Museum, London (accession no. [691E-1889](#)).

Archery was commonly practised in Mughal India in both hunting and warfare, as illustrated in Mughal miniatures such as 'The Battle of Shahbarghan' from a 17th-century Padshahnama in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (accession no. [1986.283](#)). It depicts a group of mounted archers aiming at their opponents on the battlefield with quivers strung around the archers' waists.

A series of similar embroidered Indian quivers is in the Victoria & Albert Museum, London (accession nos [3309:1/\(IS\)](#), [889-1852](#), and [3437&A/1toA/4/\(IS\)](#)). A related quiver, with floral decoration on red velvet, is illustrated in *Splendeur des armes orientales* (1988).¹

- ¹ Missillier, Philippe, and Howard Ricketts. *Splendeur des armes orientales*. Paris: ACTE-EXPO, 1988. Cat. 184, p. 109.