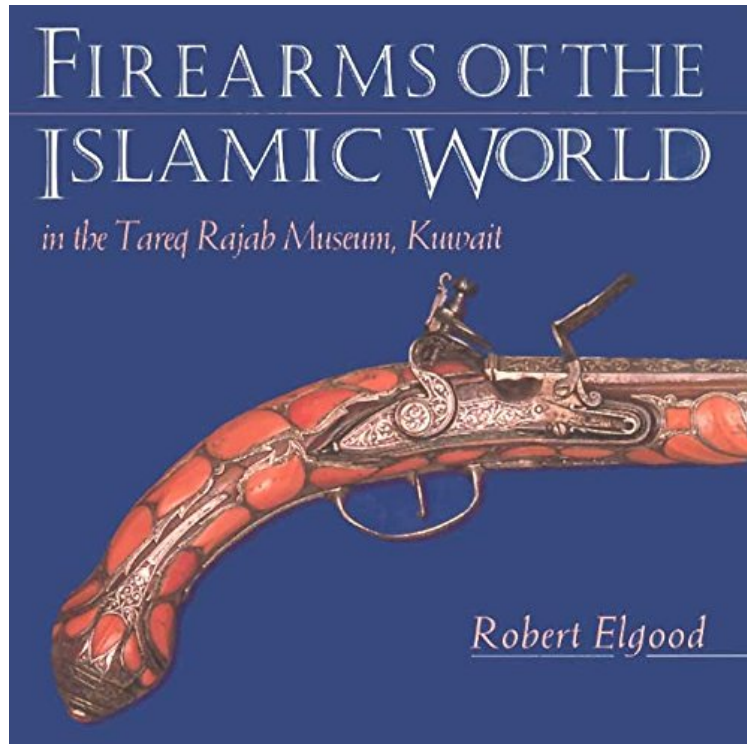


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## Firearms of the Islamic World: in the Tared Rajab Museum, Kuwait

*Robert Elgood*

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**Robert Elgood : Firearms of the Islamic World: in the Tared Rajab Museum, Kuwait** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Firearms of the Islamic World: in the Tared Rajab Museum, Kuwait:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great book on early Islamic firearms By James D. Crabtree I was fortunate enough to visit the Tareq Rajab Museum when I was last in Kuwait and saw most of the weapons in this book. Robert Elgood does an excellent job of putting these gunpowder guns in their historical perspective, especially as it divides the guns into various points of origin. The photographs of the weapons (augmented by various illustrations) really show how these firearms are works of art. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Adventures in History By McDougall As a lifelong researcher on historic antique arms and armour, I believe my earliest interests were brought about in my youth watching the thrilling adventure movies which were centered in exotic places and made from the Golden Age of Hollywood into the years of the classic stars. While these were extensions of the also classic literature on which they were based, the romanticism and excitement led to the deepest desire to learn more about these mysterious places and what the people in them were really like. This book reflects the tenacious scholarship that has become the hallmark of its author, Dr. Robert Elgood, and presents itself beautifully to both serious scholars of these fascinating arms, as well as to the world of armchair adventurers, to which I proudly claim myself included. It presents the breathtaking weapons of the Taraq Rajeb Museum in Kuwait, which are included

throughout the deftly crafted text which is a fact filled narrative of pure adventure through these exciting times. The weapons themselves are noted briefly on the pages, but expertly described in detail at the back of the book. Here also is a superb bibliography which presents the reader with a myriad of intriguing titles to pursue these subjects further, and best of all, what I regard as the treasure chest!! the footnotes.....fantastic! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Firearms of the Islamic World By BI am slightly confused by the one poor review, as the reader had issues with the lack of engraving reference(?) This book has nothing to do with engraving, and is a very well written and researched study on oriental firearms, as stated in the title. And as such, it excels in every way. Whilst European arms have been covered in many publications, the East is a subject with little known reference. The author has delved deep into historical research and provided a great overview of the Arab world, with good images and copious reference notes. In the 15 years since it was first published, this still remains a seminal study and essential for any library on the subject of arms.

The first surviving reference to the use of gunpowder appears in a Chinese manuscript dating from 1044 AD. The formula for gunpowder was passed to the Arabs via India and Persia and its first use in firearms in Europe is reported at the Arab siege of Spain in 1324. While much has been written about the history of firearms in Europe and North America, their development in the Islamic world and their subsequent history there has been almost totally neglected. Elgood, uses the collection of firearms from the Tareq Rajab Museum in Kuwait to explore the subject. The collection ranges from Morocco to India, China and Central Asia, taking in almost every country in between. Elgood describes the artistry and beauty of antique firearms, focusing on the use of decoration and great craftsmanship as well as the technological innovations that were developed, and looking at the different cultures of the Islamic world.

From the Back Cover The earliest surviving document referring to the use of gunpowder is Chinese and dates from AD 1044. The formula for gunpowder was passed through India and Persia to the Arabs and its first use in firearms in Europe is reported at an Arab siege in Spain in 1324. The history of firearms in Europe and North America is well documented, but their development in the Islamic world has been neglected. This is the first comprehensive study of a complex subject, written by one of the world's leading authorities. Robert Elgood uses the superb collection of firearms in the Tareq Rajab Museum in Kuwait - the most important collection of its kind in the Arab world - to explore the subject. The collection ranges from Morocco to India, from Spain to Central Asia, taking in almost every country in between. The book traces the diffusion of locally-made firearms across the Near and Middle East from the fourteenth century until the late nineteenth century when traditional craftsmanship largely ceased in the face of Western mass-production. Drawing on detailed scholarly research, and the entertaining accounts of contemporary travellers, the author examines surviving weapons, their place of manufacture and mode of decoration, and sets them in their historical and social context.