



Large Embroidered Qajar Panel

Qajar Persia, 19th century

Provenance: From the collection of the Countess Amalia Canonica, from the beginning of 20th century; by inheritance.

83.5cm high, 138cm wide

Stock No.: A5295

This crimson velvet embroidery is adorned with birds and voluptuous flowers. In the borders are undulating vines with heavy leaves and blossoms scroll. In the central field, the lozenge- and leaf-shaped cartouches bear inscriptions in Persian.

The two leaf-shaped cartouches bear the same inscription:

کلید گنج سعادت بدست سلطنت است.

Kilīd-i ganj-i sa'ādat be-dast-i šulṭanat ast.

The key of fortune is in the hand of the sovereign.

The central lozenge-shape cartouche reads:

تکیه بر جای بزرگان مزین ای دل

مگر اسباب بزرگی همه آماده شود

Takīye bar jāy-e buzurgān mazan ay del, magar asbāb-e buzurgī hameh āmadeh shavad

Greatness cannot be had by words alone, seek ye first the things which make for greatness (verses modelled on Hafez's poetry)

Foil-wrapped, silk and coloured cotton threads are used in the embroidery of this textile. The three-

dimensional couching of threads combined with the tactile ground fabric creates a richly textured embroidery. An almost identical item, with the same poetry verses in the central cartouche, is now at Waddesdon Manor ([Accession Number: 539](#)).

Comparative material:

Victoria and Albert Museum, London (951-1889); The Textile Museum, Washington, D.C. (1977.37.18)

Reference:

Bier, Carol. *Woven from the Soul, Spun from the Heart: Textile Arts of Safavid and Qajar Iran, 16th-19th Centuries*. Washington, D.C: Textile Museum, 1987.