



SWORD, KILIÇ

This is an Ottoman Turkish *kiliç* with a wide blade. In western literature this type of sword is also called *pala*. The handle of this sword is made of two scales of dark horn riveted to the handle with three brass rivets. The crossguard is made of brass ending in two rounded knobs. The middle of the crossguard on each side is decorated with four fluted corals and four turquoise stones set in intervals. The wide blade (probably made of pattern welded steel) has a T-spine and a raised back-edge (*yelman*). After the gold-overlaid forte, the blade has a wide central fuller and three narrow fullers starting from the raised back-edge. The blade has three cut-out and pierced areas in geometrical design. The base of the blade on both sides is decorated with gold-overlaid floral and vegetal designs. The scabbard is made of wood and covered with leather. The back of the scabbard shows wire-stitching in the middle. The scabbard mouth and the scabbard chape are made of gilded chiselled brass in floral and vegetal designs. The scabbard mouth is decorated with eight fluted and cut corals and eight turquoise stones set in intervals. In the middle, there is a green jade stone. The scabbard chape is also decorated with eight fluted and cut corals and eight turquoise stones set in intervals. In the middle, there is a garnet stone. The suspension locket is made of brass and decorated with four cut and fluted corals and nine small turquoise stones. The suspension locket has two suspension rings made of brass. For a very similar Turkish sabre from 1800 see Schuckelt (2010:359, figure 354). For another similar Turkish sabre blade with a wide blade, a T-spine and a raised backedge from the eighteenth century see Mohamed (2008:72, figure 36).

Inscriptions: There are two gold-overlaid cartouches on the obverse side. The lower cartouche reads:

Tawakul all Allah توكلت على الله (Reliance on God)

The cartouche above is written in stylistic letters and is taken from the verse 13 of the sura *al-Saff* الصف (formations) that read:

نصر من الله وفتح القريب

Nasron Min Allāhi Wa Fathon Qareeb (Help from God and early victory) (see *al-Qur'an*, 1993:483).

On the reverse side, there is a gold-overlaid inscription that is taken from the sura *al-Ikhlās* الاخلاص (Pure Faith); this is the 112 sura of the holy *Qur'an* that consists of four verses. Here part of one verse of the sura is used and written in the cartouche that reads:

قل هو الله

Qol Howa Allaho. Say: "He is God".



TYPE SWORD, KILIÇ
ORIGIN OTTOMAN TURKEY
PERIOD 1800



TOTAL LENGTH 90,6 cm
LENGTH WITH SCABBARD 94,5 cm
LENGTH OF THE BLADE 75,8 cm
WIDTH OF THE BLADE AT THE BASE 4,8 cm
WIDTH OF THE BLADE IN THE MIDDLE 3,8 cm
WIDTH OF THE RAISED BACKEDGE (YELMAN) 5,15 cm
THICKNESS OF THE BLADE AT THE BASE (T-SPINE) 8,2 mm
THICKNESS OF THE BLADE IN THE MIDDLE (T-SPINE) 7,3 mm
THICKNESS OF THE RAISED BACKEDGE (YELMAN) 7,9 mm
POB (POINT OF BALANCE) 18 cm
COP (CENTRE OF PERCUSSION) 48 cm
WEIGHT 964 grams
WEIGHT WITH SCABBARD 1590 grams

