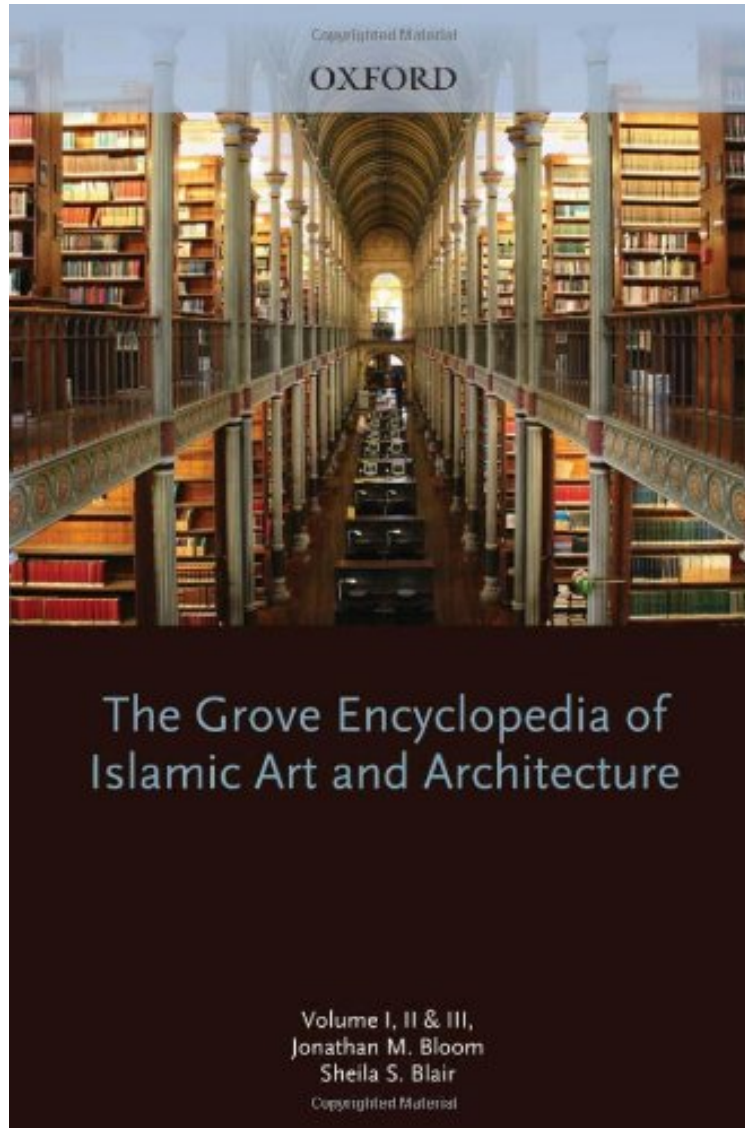


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From Oxford University Press : The Grove Encyclopedia of Islamic Art Architecture before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Grove Encyclopedia of Islamic Art Architecture:

The Grove Encyclopedia of Islamic Art and Architecture is the most comprehensive reference work in this complex and diverse area of art history. Built on the acclaimed scholarship of the Grove Dictionary of Art, this work offers over

1,600 up-to-date entries on Islamic art and architecture ranging from the Middle East to Central and South Asia, Africa, and Europe and spans over a thousand years of history. Recent changes in Islamic art in areas such as Afghanistan, Iran, and Iraq are elucidated here by distinguished scholars. Entries provide in-depth art historical and cultural information about dynasties, art forms, artists, architecture, rulers, monuments, archaeological sites and stylistic developments. In addition, over 500 illustrations of sculpture, mosaic, painting, ceramics, architecture, metalwork and calligraphy illuminate the rich artistic tradition of the Islamic world. With the fundamental understanding that Islamic art is not limited to a particular region, or to a defined period of time, The Grove Encyclopedia of Islamic Art and Architecture offers pathways into Islamic culture through its art.

From Booklist*Starred * The value of a spin-off reference work lies in its updated content, lower cost, and depth of coverage appropriate for specialized collections. The Grove Encyclopedia of Islamic Art and Architecture lends a new perspective to a discipline that has become critically important since the publication of its parent set, the 34-volume Dictionary of Art (1996). Bloom and Blair, Islam and central Asia editors for the parent set, used as their point of departure the Dictionary of Arts 468-page article on Islamic art plus Islam-related content from other articles, including Arms and armor, Jewelry, and Papercuts. They define Islamic art as that made by artists or artisans whose religion was Islam, for patrons who lived in predominantly Muslim lands, or for purposes that are restricted or peculiar to a Muslim population or a Muslim setting. Within that framework, the encyclopedia encompasses art and architecture in southern Europe, northern Africa, and west, central, and south Asia over 14 centuries. The goal was to make the relatively obscure field of Islamic art as accessible as possible to the widest possible audience and to encourage readers to explore other aspects of Islamic civilization and the interrelationships between Islamic art and other artistic traditions. The encyclopedia contains 1,600 articles by 375 scholars and more than 600 photographs, black-and-white reproductions, color plates, drawings, maps, and floor plans. Entries often begin with a brief definition and then place the topic within the context of Islamic art. Some include alternate vocabulary, such as the 14 words used for Caravanserai in locations from Baghdad (dar) to Fez (funduq). Articles on broad topics are long the editors note the book-length Architecture and headnotes list their divisions, usually chronological and geographic. Many of the extensive bibliographies (Berber, Calligraphy) include items published after 2005. Bibliographies also include carefully selected Web sites, such as the complete digital archive of Gertrude Bells photos, diaries, and letters. This set is an exemplary spin-off. It is not only highly recommended for academic and larger public libraries but its survey articles and sections on history, historiography, and approaches to scholarship are required reading for graduate students, who will find especially valuable the editors tip that there are dissertations waiting to be written here! Also available in an e-reference edition as part of the Oxford Digital Reference Shelf collection. Articles in Oxford Art Online, the electronic Dictionary of Art, are not the updated versions. Also available as an e-book. --Christine Whittington "This volume is everything that one has come to expect from a Grove title: literate, comprehensive, and authoritative . . . for libraries with specialized art or Islamic collections, this is essential."--Library Journal (Starred) "The editors are to be saluted for the vast amount of readily accessible information contained in these three volumes."--The Art Magazine "It is not only highly recommended for academic and larger public libraries but its survey articles and sections on history, historiography, and approaches to scholarship are required reading for graduate students, who will find especially valuable the editors' tip that 'there are dissertations waiting to be written here!'"--Booklist (Outstanding) "Jonathan M. Bloom and Sheila S. Blair continually publish excellent resources about Islamic art and architecture for the English-speaking world. Their latest opus, The Grove Encyclopedia of Islamic Art and Architecture, is worthy to be included on their stellar list of classic works not only for being the only resource in English solely devoted to Islamic art and architecture, but also for its unparalleled scholarship."--American Reference Books Annual "Essential. Upper-level undergraduates and above; general readers"--CHOICE "Based on their collective and solo achievements, Bloom's and Blair's GEIAA is destined to become the definite work in the area of Islamic art and architecture, which will undoubtedly be on the shelves of all libraries."--American Reference Books Annual About the Author Jonathan M. Bloom and Sheila S. Blair share the Norma Jean Calderwood University Professorship of Islamic and Asian Art at Boston College and the Hamad bin Khalifa Endowed Chair of Islamic Art at Virginia Commonwealth University. A husband-and-wife team, they study all aspects of Islamic art from the seventh century to modern times. Bloom is particularly interested in the arts of the medieval Mediterranean region as well as the history of paper. His most recent book is Arts of the City Victorious (2007), a study of the art and architecture of the Fatimid period in North Africa and Egypt. Blair is particularly interested in the arts of Iran and Central Asia, the Mongols, and the history of the Islamic book. Her latest book is Islamic Calligraphy (2006), for which she won several international awards. In addition to their hundreds of individual articles, reviews, and monographs, they have written or edited seven books jointly. They also served as consultants to the 3-hour documentary Islam: Empire of Faith, shown nationally on PBS, and are convenors of the Hamad bin Khalifa Biennial Symposium on Islamic Art. Both Bloom and Blair received their Ph.D.s in Middle Eastern Studies and Fine Arts from Harvard University in 1980.