

Mughal Glass

A History of Glassmaking in India

Tara Desjardins

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- Includes a comprehensive catalogue of Mughal glass objects gathered from both public and private collections around the world
- It stands as an important contribution to the scholarship of Islamic art and material culture serving as another testament to the entangled histories of this world
- A culmination of over a decade of research, amalgamates scientific studies, chemical analyses, primary accounts, archival records, and art historical practices

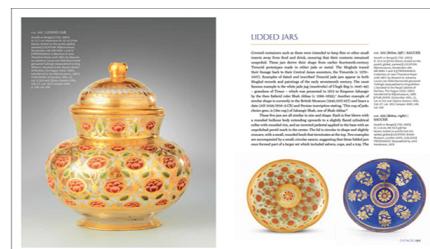
The history of Mughal glass has been predominantly neglected, leading scholars to speculate as to whether these spectacular specimens are European imports, made from European glass but decorated in India, or of entirely Indian manufacture. ***Mughal Glass: A History of Glassmaking in India*** delves into these questions while simultaneously exploring the development of new glass recipes, the impact of increased maritime trade, the Mughal emperors' penchant for luxury goods, and the influence of colonial consumption in India. With a comprehensive catalog of Mughal glass objects gathered from both public and private collections around the world, this book stands as a definitive work, offering an authentic account that sheds light on a long-neglected aspect of Indian history.

Tara Desjardins is the curator of South Asia at the Museum of Islamic Art, Doha. She obtained her Doctoral degree from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London and has since held curatorial positions at the Victoria & Albert Museum and the San Diego Museum of Art. Desjardins previously worked as an Islamic and Orientalist art specialist at Tajan and Christie's, Paris. Her research has been published by the Association Internationale pour l'Histoire du Verre (AIHV), the *Journal of Glass Studies*, Yale University Press, and Thames & Hudson.



NEW EXPLORATIONS

In today's interconnected world, it is a matter of great interest to consider the extent to which the Mughal glass objects in this book are related to other similar objects from around the world. This is especially important given the fact that the Mughal emperors were known for their extensive travels and their interest in collecting objects from all over the world. This section explores some of the possible connections between the Mughal glass objects in this book and other similar objects from around the world. It also considers the impact of the Mughal emperors' travels and their interest in collecting objects from all over the world on the development of Mughal glassmaking.



LODDED JARS

Ground glass jars such as those shown here are likely to be the most common type of Mughal glass object. These are often found in archaeological contexts, such as in the ruins of the Tughlaq and Lodhi dynasties. They are also found in the tombs of the Mughal emperors, such as in the tomb of Shah Jahan in the Taj Mahal. These jars are often decorated with gold leaf and gold paint, and some are even inlaid with gold and silver.



IN THE MUGHAL COURT

These four glass vessels, known as 'mughal' or 'mughali' glass, were produced in the Mughal court in the 17th century. They are decorated with gold leaf and gold paint, and some are even inlaid with gold and silver. The scenes depicted on these vessels are typical of Mughal courtly life, showing figures in traditional Indian attire, such as the 'kurti-pajama' and 'dhoti'. These vessels were used for storing various substances, such as perfume, spices, and medicines.