The use of technology and innovation in British Museums:

A case study the British Museum
(The Albukhary Foundation Gallery of the Islamic World)

Mrs Qaisra Khan, Independent Curator
The Albukhary Foundation Gallery of the Islamic World

• “The British Museum’s new Islamic world gallery is a triumph” - The Economist

• “A soaring miracle of art – Albukhary Gallery of the Islamic World” - The Guardian

• “The British Museum’s new Islamic World galleries are stunning” – Time Out

• “Gallery of the Islamic World, British Museum review: this is Islam as you've never seen it before” - The Telegraph

• “The true face of Islam won’t be found in mosques or Muslim schools, but at the British Museum” - The Spectator

• “The British Museum’s new gallery is a delight, but you will need more than one visit” – The Times

• “British Museum’s Islamic art finally gets its fairy-tale ending” – Art Newspaper

• “In the garden of time: Islamic art at the British Museum, the new Albukhary Foundation Gallery charts the culture of Islam with breathtaking scope” - The Financial Times
The gallery comprises two rooms presenting the cultures of the Islamic world from West Africa to Southeast Asia, beginning about 600 and continuing to the present day. It highlights both the diversity of peoples and their traditions, and the connections between them.

This room covers the period up to 1500 through chronological and thematic displays featuring topics such as global trade and exchange and luxury arts. These objects reflect the strengths of the Museum’s wide-ranging collection.

The Islamic calendar (AH) begins in the year AD 622, marking the emigration, or Hija, of the Prophet Muhammad from Mecca to Medina. AH dates will be given only when they supersede AD dates. All other dates are AD unless stated otherwise.

For further information about the creation of the gallery, as well as detailed object records and complete digital content, visit islamworld.museum.org or scan the QR code below.

In India, however, figurative pieces representing soldiers (8) have remained in use through the present.

7-8. Islamic-style European chess pieces
According to archaeologically and textual evidence, chess reached Europe via Spain and Sicily, and possibly via in the north, around 1000. These two pieces look very much alike, and both show that Islamic and European designs are quite similar. Both are mounted with a green gemstone on the top and a blue gemstone below.

Scan here to hear Dr. Ioan Finkel

Music and performance


New Technology

A look at all the latest technological advancements and how this sector can harness the power of these without breaking the bank! Discover how you can make technology work for your organisation and budget, using it to connect audiences and collections, now and in the future.

Also swing by the Expert Zone to discuss your own needs and challenges.

Scroll down to view the New Technology stream of talks or to view the full programme click here.

Click here to view all the Thames for the 2018 Show

New Technology Talks

Thursday
17 May

What If You Could Analyse All Your Museum Data In One Place?
Location: New Technology - Theatre 2

If you manage Museum data this session will help you. It reviews how the Natural History Museum is building a central definitive service to analyse business data. It covers automating the
The website: http://islamicworld.britishmuseum.org
The Albukhary Foundation Gallery of the Islamic world represents an exciting new vision, displayed across two magnificent refurbished galleries at the heart of the British Museum. The British Museum’s Islamic collection comprises a broad and diverse spectrum of the material culture produced from the seventh century to the present day in the Islamic world, a series of regions stretching from West Africa to Southeast Asia. From archaeological material to contemporary art, from the paintings and vessels made for royal patrons to the evocative objects of daily life, this new Gallery brings together the stories of interconnected worlds across time and geography.

The British Museum’s Albukhary Foundation Gallery of the Islamic world, and this website, was made possible thanks to a generous donation from the Albukhary Foundation. We are grateful to the Trustees of the Foundation and its chairman, Syed Mokhtar Albukhary, and for the support of Syed Mohamed Albukhary, Director of the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia.
Explore objects in the gallery

Mosque-lamp
- **Gateway object**: Yes
- **Date**: 1200-1600, 1753-1742
- **Material**: Stonepaste

Painting, album (detached folio)
- **Date**: 1620-1607, 1753-1742
- **Material**: Paper, gold

Astrolabe
- **Date**: 1712
- **Material**: Copper alloy, silver

Arm-band, amulet
- **Description**: Ironic wester's leather amulet with 15 carnelian and chalcedony amulets inscribed with verses from the Qur'an.
- **Object type**: Arm-band, amulet
- **Material**: Leather, cornelian, chalcedony

Panel
- **Date**: 1250-1316, ivory

Mosque-lamp
- **Date**: 1250-1316, stonepaste

Cup
- **Date**: 1250-1316, stonepaste

Vessel, lid
- **Date**: 1250-1316, pottery

Figure
- **Date**: 1250-1316, metal

Ewer
- **Date**: 1250-1316, metal
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