

## The Stibbert Museum

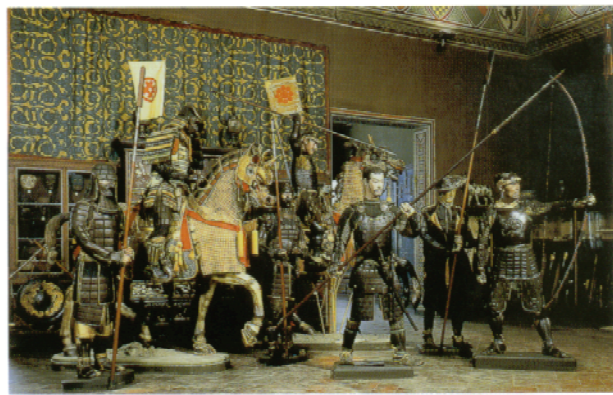
is especially noteworthy because of its famous armoury, which includes European, Middle Eastern and Japanese pieces dating from the 15th.-19th. centuries. Stibbert set it up in his unusual house-cum-museum, in accordance with 19th century taste, which required the reconstruction of highly evocative settings.



### THE EUROPEAN ARMOURY

This collection was assembled throughout Stibbert's career as a collector, between 1860 and the end of the 19th. century. It includes a large quantity of armour, weapons and firearms mostly dating from the 16th. and 17th. centuries. There are also 15th. and 19th. century pieces and archaeological items.

The mostly 16th. century armour is of Italian, German and French origin, for use both in war and various kinds of tournaments.



### THE JAPANESE ARMOURY

Stibbert was one of the first collectors to show interest in Far Eastern arms and armour, at the time when Japan was again accessible to foreign trade, after 1868. He put together what proved to be one of the most important collections of arms and armour outside Japan itself, buying mostly from Florentine and London dealers.

The collection consists of about 90 suits of armour, 200 helmets, 300 sabres, and 600 *tsuba* (hilts), as well as spears and lances and accessories, all of the highest quality. Nearly all of the items date from the Momoyama and Edo periods (1568-1868).



### THE MIDDLE EASTERN ARMOURY

Another, very important section of the armoury is of Islamic origin. An initial nucleus may well have already been present in the Stibbert household from the time of grandfather Frederick, the commanding officer of the armed forces of the East India Company and Governor of Bengal during the second half of the 18th. century. Much more was added when Stibbert bought many items made available for purchase after the dismantling of the St. Irene Arsenal in Constantinople.