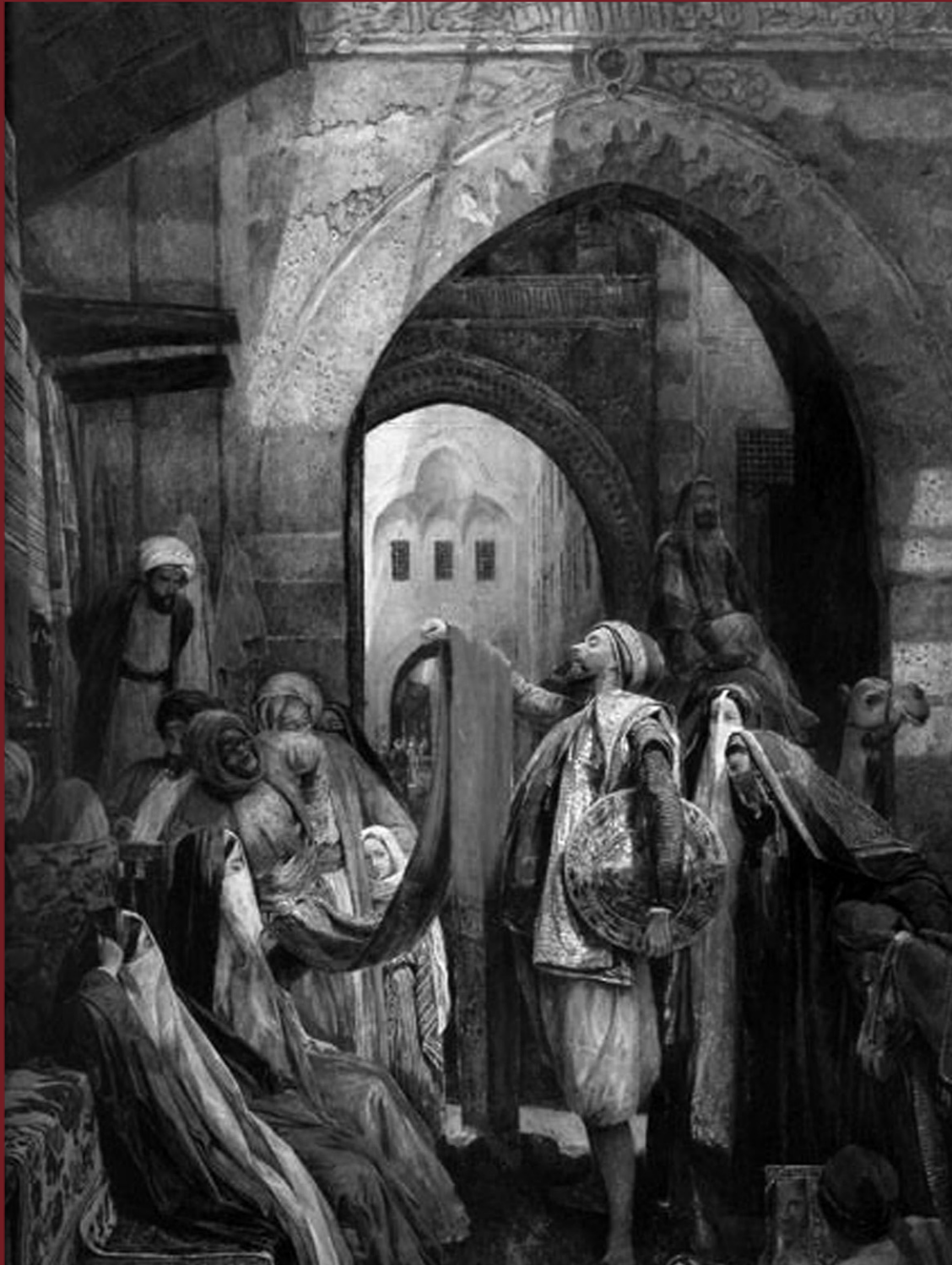


The Muslim World

Paintings, Drawings, Prints and Costumes
from the Victoria & Albert Museum, London



Adam Matthew Publications

“European interest in the Middle East escalated dramatically in the 19th century.

The accounts and images these visitors sent home caught

the timelessness of past civilizations...

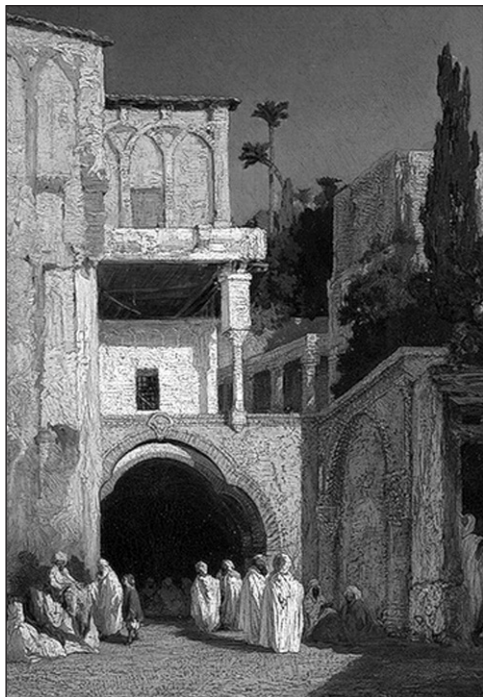
and provided a window on a strange and mysterious world. Firing the Western imagination, these portrayals had a profound impact on 19th-century art, literature, theater and music...”

Diane M Bolz
Smithsonian magazine

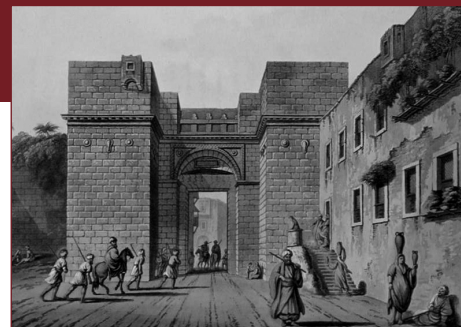
Covering 4 centuries and almost 10,000 works by more than 700 artists, *The Muslim World* is a significant collection of work on South Asia and Africa. It will be of major interest to scholars and students of Islamic studies, cultural and social history.

For centuries, European artists and travellers have documented the life of Islamic countries in paintings, photography and drawings. They witnessed and recorded costume, architecture, ornament, design and topography. Such works are a valuable source for cultural and social historians, offering a European perspective on the region's customs and history.

The Muslim World has been compiled from the world's largest collection of



Alexandre Descamps, 'Before Cairo', 1868
Front: JF Lewis: A Cairo Bazaar, 1875



Luigi Mayer, 'Gate of Grand Cairo', 1804

European-produced art on 'the Orient'. It is an essential source for any study of Islamic art. The formation of stereotypes, power relationships and 'Orientalism' are all issues that can be explored using the works in this collection.

A large portion of the project comes from the Searight Collection at the Victoria & Albert Museum. Rodney Searight, former director at Shell Petroleum, began collecting art while he was working in Egypt and the surrounding areas.

When he started the collection, a lack of interest in the region allowed him to acquire art by well-known, as well as obscure, artists. It was Searight's appetite for new art that put names like Preziosi and Mayer on the map.

Searight's collection is complemented by a selection from the Victoria & Albert's own paintings, drawings and prints. There is also a separate section of costume designs, with costumes ranging from religious clothing to the outfits worn by royalty.

Together the entire collection ranges from 1600 to 1925, being strongest for the 18th and 19th centuries. The artists are mainly British but there are also French, Italian and other artists. Major names include John Frederick Lewis, Edward Lear, David Wilkie, Amadeo Preziosi, Luigi Mayer, William Muller, Adrien Dauzats, Alexandre Descamps, Eugene Flaudin and Carl Werner. The artistic focus is on the most popular tourist areas, including

India, Turkey, Egypt and North Africa. Less accessible areas such as Arabia, Indonesia and Java also feature.

Works are arranged alphabetically by artist and the whole collection is accompanied by the V&A's catalogue, which draws on Searight's personal research. There are biographies, particularly on the lesser-known artists, to be found in the catalogue at the end of the section.

The Muslim World

62 colour and 101 black/white microfiche

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+44 (0)1672 511921
info@ampltd.co.uk
www.ampltd.co.uk

“Orientalism... [is] a Western style for dominating, restructuring, and having authority over the Orient... European culture gained in strength and identity by setting itself off against the Orient as a sort of surrogate and even underground self.”

Edward Said
Orientalism (London, 1978)



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