

The Courtauld Bag musicians - colouring sheet

The Courtauld Bag was made in Mosul (present-day Iraq) in the early 14th Century. At this time, Mosul was an important metalworking centre and was located on a major East-West trade route.

The bag is made of inlaid gold and silver on sheets of brass. The decoration on the bag includes 14 small pictorial roundels depicting musicians and people holding bottles and cups. Music and feasting would have been important elements of the courtly life of the bag's owner. The two musicians shown on these colouring sheets are playing a tambourine and a flute.

All the pictorial panels on the bag have a background of dense, scrolling stems and leaves.

Some areas of inlaid decoration have been lost.



The Courtauld Bag is on display at the History of Science Museum as part of the exhibition Precious and Rare: Islamic metalwork from the Courtauld Gallery. The exhibition is a partnership between The Courtauld and the Subject Specialist Network (SSN) for Islamic Art and Material Culture (hosted by Birmingham Museums) and made possible with Art Fund support.

