

Typology of the lattice metallic key box belonging to the Astan Quds Razavi Based on a comparative study with similar cases

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Abstract

Metal lattice is one of the methods of metalworking in the Safavid era and one of its outstanding works is a unique steel pen box that is kept in the Astan Quds Razavi Museum in Mashhad under the title of "key box". Due to the initial visual studies and the apparent similarity of this exquisite work with other pen boxes of the Islamic period, this research has been done to analyze and adapt the visual and structural features of this work. Therefore, in addition to visual analysis, the purpose of this study is a comparative study of the design and motifs with some significant examples of Iranian Islamic pen boxes. In this regard, the present study will answer the question: what are the similarity and differences between the designs of the preserved pen box in the Astan Quds Razavi Museum and other cases from the Islamic period to the Safavid era? In this fundamental research which has been done by comparative method; This work has been studied and adapted in terms of form and motifs with 12 Iranian Islamic metal pen boxes until the end of Safavid era. The results indicate that the motifs used in these works can be classified into 5 groups: plant motifs (Arabesque and Khataei), animal motifs, written motifs, human motifs and geometric motifs. Also, the results show that in metallic pen boxes, written and arabesque motifs are used more than other ones. The studied case, like other pen boxes, has arabesque and written decorations. The distinguishing feature of this work instead of other cases is the use of Khataei motifs and also the use of Nastaliq calligraphy in this work, which is not seen in other pen boxes.

Keywords: Safavid Metalworking, Metallic Lattice, Key Box, Pen Box, Astan Quds Razavi.

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