

# Basic Detail Report

---



## Yataghan (sword)

**Date**  
early 1800s

**Primary Maker**  
Turkish

**Medium**  
crucible steel, gold false-damascening, silver, and walrus ivory

**Description**  
Long, knife-like blade of steel in the classic yataghan form, with an acute knife point. The blade is single-edged, with a ribbed, rounded back. The section is wedge form, and along the sides at the top are a pair of well-defined fullers, one larger than the other; both extend almost completely to the end. The shoulder of the blade, and about 1/8th of the length below, are more or less encased with silver plaques set with lozenges, beads, and filigree. Similar decoration is found on the straps which encircle the hilt axis. These are further enhanced by prominent rosettes of alternating coiled spirals and hexagonal bosses. At the sides, and forming the pommel, are large plaques of walrus ivory which are riveted through the tang by four, plain iron posts. These plaques are prolonged to form the prominent "ears" of the grip. The blade faces are decorated as well. The obverse has koftgari work of a circular medallion formed in nine (?) segments filled with Arabic script; and on either side of this is a symmetrical treatment of an eight-petaled blossom from which emanates a trilobated swelling with decorated, spear-head terminal. The back of the blade, below the silver plaque, has a repeated motif of open hearts terminated in a cloud lozenge. The reverse face has a long rectangular cartouche filled with script, and on either side are radiating palmettes within a framing that is also filled by a maze of thin tendrils having globular swellings. On the above decoration, the ground is left darkened for contrast. Single-edge blade curving towards cutting edge with 2 fullers at back edge. Back edge chiseled with 2 panels running length of blade with central rib. Gold koft-gari calligraphy on center of both blade faces. Hilt of walrus ivory, of large "eared" shape. Grip strap covered in gold wire forming raised domes & floral designs. Underside of grip strapping similarly treated, extending down back & sides of blade for approximately 3" forming reinforcing plate with scalloped edge.

**Dimensions**  
8.9 × 76.8 × 60.6 cm (3 1/2 × 30 1/4 × 23 7/8 in.), 1 lb 12 oz (weight)