



## Jerusalem, 1000-1400: Every People under Heaven

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Against astounding contemporary arguments that Jerusalem does not represent shared the history of a bevy of religions and cultures stands the Met's new catalog of medieval art, *Jerusalem, 1000-1400*. It features artifacts from the city itself, pieces that indicate great global longing toward Jerusalem, and items that speak to the curious and unique cultural milieu within its walls.

With attentiveness, Boehm, Holcomb, and contributing essayists draw out meaning from the featured pieces: a phylactery said to contain a bit of Jesus's cross; a fragment from Salah ad-Din's intricate Al-Aqsa midbar; sketches from Maimonides made upon his visit to the city.

Less overtly religious pieces play in, too, from glasswork almost a millennium old to scraps of once luxurious fabrics, now fraying toward oblivion. The essays that accompany these pieces champion the city—as a multicultural melting pot, where the suq bustled to meet the needs of pilgrims and travelers from distant lands; as a lightning rod for religious fervor; as a center of learning, development, and promise.

A celebratory spirit pervades the collection, which focuses far more on that which unites disparate people than it meditates on divides that were severe even then. It positions Jerusalem as a place upon which medieval hopes centered, and around which eternal imagination reached a gloried pitch. Karaite sects, Islamic architectural touches on the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, a storied arch—all become uniquely fascinating in this setting.

Such awe is reflected in the text's particular emphasis on its topics. Travelers and tourists get multiple essays; religious warfare gets one, a brief, semi-sermonic interlude from James Carroll, recalling the perils of exclusivism that led up to the Crusades and sounding a warning against any return. Glossy photographs of mementos from our shared and hopeful past make *Jerusalem* a work sitting with—and worth returning to, whenever time is too short for a physical pilgrimage.

MICHELLE ANNE SCHINGLER (Winter 2017)

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