

ABEGG-STIFTUNG

Media release, September 2020

1 SEPTEMBER TO 8 NOVEMBER 2020
OPEN DAILY FROM 2 P.M. TO 5.30 P.M.



VELVETS IN FOCUS

NEW ACQUISITIONS AUGMENT THE COLLECTION

The Abegg-Stiftung has acquired several important Ottoman and Italian velvets of the fifteenth and sixteenth century in recent years. These silks, most of them radiant red brocaded with gold and silver threads, attest to the many forms of cultural exchange that took place between West and East. They reflect the relationship between Italian and Ottoman velvet weavers around 1500 – a relationship defined as much by mutual admiration and imitation as by fierce competition. Now, for the first time, a small selection of these sumptuous fabrics is to go on show.

The new acquisitions add breadth and depth to the textile collection of the Abegg-Stiftung in an area that right from the start was a key factor in its history and in fact predated it. After all, velvets of the fifteenth and sixteenth century were among Werner Abegg's earliest and most important acquisitions when he began collecting textiles in the early 1930s, some ninety years ago. Of all the different types of silk weave, these were the ones that fascinated the young collector most. Proceeding with determination and purpose, Werner Abegg amassed the core of the velvet collection within just a few years. Even after the Abegg-Stiftung was founded, those responsible continued to augment the collection with single, carefully chosen acquisitions. Today, the velvet collection counts among the most important of its kind worldwide in terms of both number of works and variety of patterns.

Both media release and photo are available as e-mail attachments.
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Caption:

Velvet with rosette pattern; Italy, early 16th century; silk, metal threads; inv. no. 5885

The exhibition «**ARAB WEAVERS – CHRISTIAN KINGS. MEDIEVAL TEXTILES FROM SPAIN**» will remain open until 8 November 2020.