

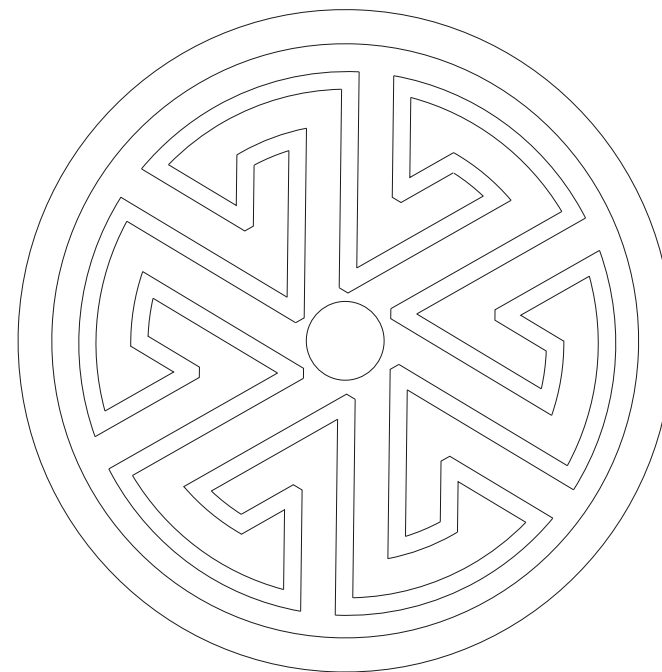
## The Courtauld Bag lid panel - colouring sheet

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 pictorial panel on the lid of the bag is made of inlaid gold and silver on a sheet of brass. The panel depicts a high-status couple sitting on a platform at the centre of the scene. The bag may have been made for the woman depicted at the centre of the scene. The figure to the right of the couple presenting the bowl is probably a courtier. The other characters are: attendants, serving drinks and holding a mirror and a parasol; a hunter at the left holding a bird of prey, which would be used to catch animals such as foxes and hares; and a musician playing an oud.

All the pictorial panels on the bag have a background of dense, scrolling stems and leaves. Geometric decoration is also a major part of the decorative scheme of the bag, the border and the roundel (which also features on the lid) are based on a triangle grid.

Some small areas of inlaid decoration have been lost, particularly at the centre of the panel.



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.

