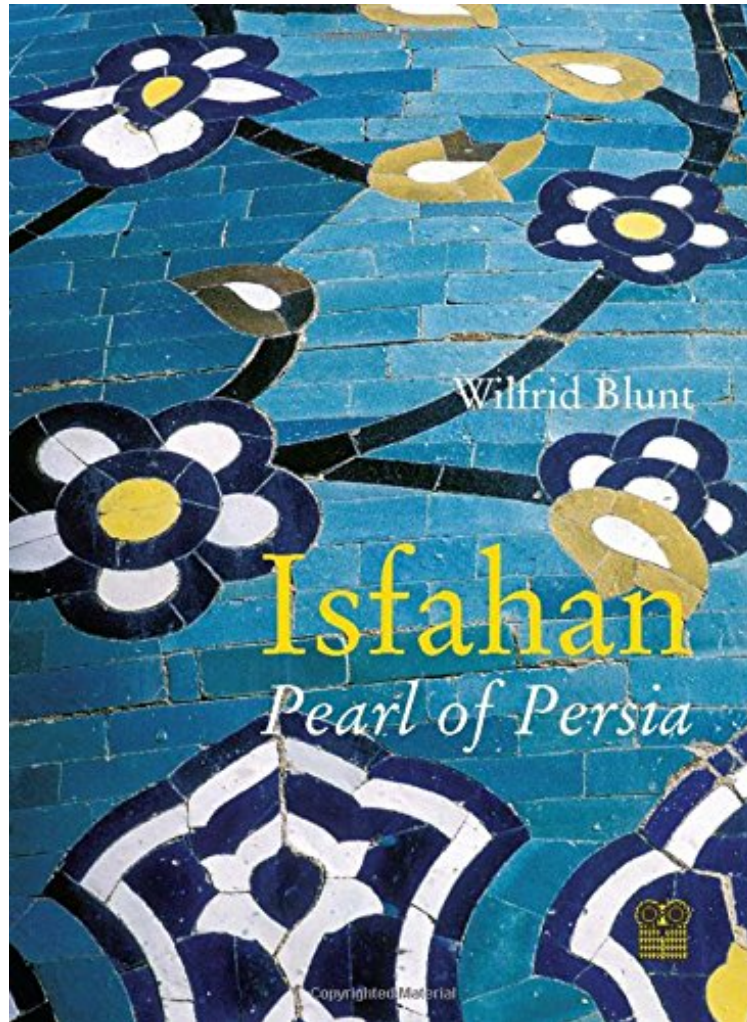


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Isfahan: Pearl of Persia

Wilfrid Blunt

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Once one of the largest cities in the world, Isfahan is an ancient metropolis that sits across timeless trade routes. It became the glittering capital of Irans greatest dynasty, the Safavids, during the 16th century. Shah Abbas I (15871629) in particular helped to transform it into a city rich in art, cultural wonders, and architecture rich in form and surface decoration. Reprinted for the first time in 40 years, this astounding survey provides a history of the city from its

earliest days up through the early 20th century and features dozens of photographs, engravings, and examples of the tilework and architecture from across the centuries that make Isfahan the cultural crown of Iran.

About the Author Wilfrid Blunt (1901-1987) was an art historian and educationalist, and the author of *Linnaeus: The Complete Naturalist*.