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MINIATURE PASTED ON CARDBOARD . 'PORTRAIT OF SULTAN MURAD II'

TURKEY; 1ST QUARTER OF 19TH CENTURY

LEAF: 53 × 40 CM

The Greek painter Konstantin Kapidagli made a series of portraits of 28 sultans on order from Selim III. They were copied by John Young and engraved in London in around 1814. The Turkish artist who made this portrait was familiar with one in the series, although minor differences can be detected.

Murad II (1421-1451) was one of the Ottoman dynasty's many strong sultans, who despite repeated revolts against his rule, subjugated large parts of the Balkans and paved the way for his son Mehmed II the Conqueror's capture of Istanbul in 1453.

The motif in the foreground cannot be identified, but the large ships are clearly from the painter's own time and not from Murad's.

Published in:  
Joachim Meyer: *Sensual Delights: Incense Burners and Rosewater  
Sprinklers from the World of Islam*, The David Collection,  
Copenhagen 2015, fig. 3, p. 10, (detail);