



Inv. no. 14/1964

OIL LAMP, YELLOWISH GLASS WITH APPLIED THREADS

IRAN OR CENTRAL ASIA; 10TH-11TH CENTURY

H: 12.5; DIAM: 12 CM

A cylinder attached to the base inside the oil lamp was intended to hold the wick in the center. Along the outside is a decoration of glass threads forming suspension rings at the top for a metal hanging, now missing. Below the rings, the threads create a number of bosses that partly conceal the oil lamp's circular base, revealing that the lamp could both hang and stand.

The lack of decoration proper creates a measure of uncertainty in dating oil lamps of this type, which can be seen as a precursor of the famous enameled lamps from 13th-14th-century Egypt and Syria (D 32/1986 and 31/2008). The lamp's yellowish glass was admirably suited to the light that came from its burning wick.

Published in:

Journal of Glass Studies, 11, 1969, fig. 19, p. 112;

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København 1970, cat.no. 21;

André Leth: *Davids Samling. Islamisk kunst = The David Collection. Islamic Art*, København 1975, p. 12;

Kjeld von Folsach: *Islamic art. The David Collection*, Copenhagen
1990, cat.no. 226;

Avinoam Shalem: "Fountains of light: the meaning of medieval
Islamic rock crystal lamps" in *Muqarnas*, 11, 1994, p. 7, fig. 7;

Kjeld von Folsach: *Art from the World of Islam in The David
Collection*, Copenhagen 2001, cat.no. 328;