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FRITWARE DISH, PAINTED IN BLUE, GREEN, AND BLACK AND WITH A RED SLIP UNDER A TRANSPARENT GLAZE

TURKEY, IZNIK; C. 1575

H: 4.5; DIAM: 28 CM

Visiting Westerners in the 16th century could tell of the Ottomans' fascination with lovely, fragrant flowers. They were worn singly in the folds of a turban, arranged in small – by Western standards – bouquets, and cultivated in gardens.

The same representatives of the local flora that were evidently valued most were found again and again on Iznik ceramics from the second half of the 16th century: carnations, tulips, roses, and hyacinths. The flowers seem to have been painted from life. They are often arranged in bouquets, and the long, swaying stems are angled so that the compositions on the round dishes are perfectly balanced.

Published in:

C.L. Davids Samling : Nogle Studier, København 1948, p. 115;
André Leth: *Davids Samling. Islamisk kunst = The David Collection. Islamic Art*, København 1975, p. 105;
Tsugio Mikami: *Islamic pottery*, Tokyo 1986, cat.no. 279, p. 221;
Kjeld von Folsach: *Islamic art. The David Collection*, Copenhagen 1990, cat.no.189;
Kjeld von Folsach: *Art from the World of Islam in The David Collection*, Copenhagen 2001, cat.no. 264;