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STAR-SHAPED PANEL, CARVED WOOD, INLAID WITH IVORY

EGYPT, CAIRO; C. 1300

DIAM: 23.9 CM

Woodcarvings were used on a large scale under the Mamluks to decorate *minbars* (pulpits), Koran stands, and doors. Coloristic effects could be achieved by using ivory inlays and combining ebony with other different-colored woods.

The ebony of the central part of this star-shaped panel is embellished with a complex arabesque, while the light-colored wood has much simpler vegetal ornamentation. The panel probably comes from a *minbar* or a door, where it was combined with carved wooden panels of other geometrical shapes.

The ornamentation is related to that on a *minbar* made in Cairo for the emir Baktimur al-Jukandar in 1299.

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