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BRAZIER AND COAL TONGS, BRONZE WITH ENGRAVED DECORATIONS

EASTERN IRAN OR AFGHANISTAN; 12TH-13TH CENTURY
BRAZIER TOTAL H: 38.5; DIAM AT RIM: 29 CM

COAL TONGS L: 22,5 CM

The brazier and the tongs do not belong together, and their design is also different, though both have animals as their main decoration. The tongs end in a bird whose beak could grasp the coals.

The bird is highly stylized, and its legs, wings, eyes, and beak are elegantly curved in a way that matches the tongs' other quite simple forms. The brazier has a more composite but very impressive structure. The legs, designed as the front half of a deer, have ornamental patterns, and the lower edge of the brazier is decorated with a border of animals hunting.

A similar loose leg has been excavated in Nishapur, but this brazier is unique in being preserved more or less intact.

Published in:

Kjeld von Folsach: *Islamic art. The David Collection*, Copenhagen 1990, cat.no. 316;

Kjeld von Folsach: *Art from the World of Islam in The David Collection*, Copenhagen 2001, cat.no. 476;