



Inv. no. 24/1962

BRASS CASSET, ENGRAVED AND INLAID WITH GOLD, SILVER, AND A BLACK SUBSTANCE

WESTERN IRAN; 1ST HALF OF 14TH CENTURY

H: 12.8; L: 15.5; D: 12.4 CM

This little casket is exceedingly well preserved, and almost all of the original inlays are intact. It belongs to a group with more or less the same distinctive design: a beveled lid, slightly tapering sides, and animal feet. These caskets were probably used to store jewelry or other valuables.

Their decoration follows the conventions of the period – in this case figures drinking wine and making music. Along the rim of the lid is a frieze with pseudo-calligraphy like the very common type that expresses good wishes for the owner. The tops of the letters were fitted with human faces: animated script.

Published in:

Gaston Migeon: *Exposition des arts musulmans au Musée des arts décoratifs*, Paris 1903, pl. 18;

C.L. Davids Samling. *Fjerde Del : Jubilæumsskrift 1945-70*, København 1970, cat.no. 22, pp. 212-213;

André Leth: *Davids Samling. Islamisk kunst = The David Collection. Islamic Art*, København 1975, pp. 79-80;

Art from the World of Islam. 8th-18th century, Louisiana, Humlebæk 1987, cat.no. 169;
Kjeld von Folsach: *Islamic art. The David Collection*, Copenhagen 1990, cat.no. 337;
Kjeld von Folsach, Torben Lundbæk and Peder Mortensen (eds.): *Sultan, Shah and Great Mughal: the history and culture of the Islamic world*, The National Museum, Copenhagen 1996, cat.no. 139;
Kjeld von Folsach: *Art from the World of Islam in The David Collection*, Copenhagen 2001, cat.no. 513;
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