



Inv. no. 29/2003

OIL LAMP, CAST BRONZE, INLAID WITH SILVER

JAZIRA; 1ST HALF OF 13TH CENTURY

H: 14.5; DIAM AT FOOT: 7.4 CM

The lamp's "scarred" surface shows that it had been richly inlaid more or less all over. Remnants are the few Arabic letters on the neck; an inscription inlaid in silver originally rimmed the foot. The silver inlay was combined in a very unusual way with a more sculptural decoration: a handle in the form of a pouncing lion of the kind found on Iranian metalwork. It springs from a wide palmette typical of Mosul. The large vines on the sides of the lamp, in contrast, belong to a type that goes all the way back to Umayyad ornamentation in the 8th century.

A similar eclecticism is also found in other metalwork from the Jazira area, where many cultural traditions met in the 13th century.

Published in:
Christie's, London, 29/4-2003, lot 149;