



Inv. no. 2/1996

BRASS BOX, ENGRAVED AND INLAID WITH SILVER

SYRIA; 15TH CENTURY

H:10.2; D 7.8; L: 16.8 CM

The box belongs to a small, fairly uniform group that includes one with an inscription stating that it was made by the astronomer at the great mosque in Damascus, and another that held medical equipment.

This is probably also true of this box. The inscription notes that it was made for a chief physician, Yunus, who was an expert in both pharmacology and surgery.

The box was engraved with a stylized fleur-de-lis in several places, indicating that Yunus was associated with the Maristan al-Nuri in Damascus. This hospital was built in the 12th century by Nur al-Din Zengi and was restored in the 14th century by Sultan Qalaun. The heraldic emblems of both rulers were fleurs-de-lis, which are found all over the Maristan al-Nuri.

Published in:

Sotheby's, London, 9/10-1995, lot 96;

Kjeld von Folsach: *Art from the World of Islam in The David Collection*, Copenhagen 2001, cat.no. 519;

