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BRONZE BUCKET, ENGRAVED AND INLAID WITH COPPER

EASTERN IRAN OR AFGHANISTAN; 12TH CENTURY

H WITH HANDLE: C. 26.5; DIAM: 18.1 CM

The bucket is decorated with inlaid bands and panels with Arabic inscriptions in cursive and *Kufi* expressing various forms of good wishes for its owner. The wide border in the center is engraved with the twelve signs of the zodiac, surrounded by a complex latticework of bands inlaid with copper.

The bucket belongs to a type that is distinctive for both its shape and its inlaid decoration. The most magnificent example – inlaid with silver as well and with many levels of script and figurative depictions – is the Brobrinsky bucket in the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg. It was made in Herat and dated 1163.

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