



Inv. no. 39/2008

BRASS LID, ENGRAVED AND INLAID WITH GOLD AND SILVER

JAZIRA; BEGINNING OF 13TH CENTURY

MÅL: 10.3 CM

It is rather unusual to find metalwork of this early period that still has its gold inlays. This finely inlaid lid probably belonged to a large ewer – used for washing the hands – with a long spout. Several ewers of this distinctive type with a similar flat lid have survived. Some of them have inscriptions stating that they were made in the period 1220-1260 in cities such as Mosul and Damascus.

The two-part inscription inlaid with gold on this lid only expresses various good wishes for the ewer's unnamed owner. In between the two parts of the inscription are confronted birds in a lattice. Confronted peacocks also frame the lid's central medallion with an enthroned figure holding a crescent – a traditional symbol for the moon.

Published in:  
Sotheby's, London, 8/10-2008, lot 145;  
Christiane Gruber (ed.): *The moon: a voyage through time*, Aga Khan  
Museum, Toronto 2019, fig. 1, p. 4;