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FRAGMENT OF A LAMPAS-WOVEN TEXTILE, SILK AND GILDED LAMELLA OF ANIMAL SUBSTRATE BOTH SPUN AROUND A SILK CORE AND WOVEN FLAT

EASTERN ISLAMIC AREA; MID-13TH CENTURY

H: 113; W: 32 CM

Whereas geometric patterns in the Mongol/Il-Khanid period are often found on metalwork and ceramics, they are rarer on textiles.

The intertwined bands form a forceful pattern of hexagons that enclose stylized flowers. The pattern at the top is interrupted by a frieze with a highly stylized Arabic pseudo-inscription. Here the gilded lamella of animal substrate was woven flat, giving it a darker cast today.

In the geometric patterns, in contrast, the lamella was spun around a silk core in the sections that appear brownish today. When it was new, the fabric had a golden shine.

Published in:

Kjeld von Folsach and Anne-Marie Keblow Bernsted: *Woven Treasures: Textiles from the World of Islam*, The David Collection, Copenhagen 1993, cat. 16;

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. 254;

Kjeld von Folsach: *Art from the World of Islam in The David Collection*, Copenhagen 2001, cat. 637;

Sheila S. Blair and Jonathan M. Bloom (eds.): *Cosmophilia. Islamic Art from the David Collection, Copenhagen*, McMullen Museum of Art, Boston College, Boston 2006, cat. 63;

Kjeld von Folsach: "A set of silk panels from the Mongol period" in Sheila Blair and Jonathan Bloom (eds.): *God is beautiful and loves beauty: the object in Islamic art and culture*, New Haven 2013, p. 232, fig. 222a;

Eiren L. Shea: *Mongol court dress, identity formation, and global exchange*, Abingdon 2020, p. 31, note 137 and pl. 10;

Corinne Mühlemann: *Complex weaves: technique, text, and cultural history of striped silks*, Affalterbach 2023, fig. 20, p. 55;