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DISH OF *BIDRI* METAL, INLAID WITH SILVER AND BRASS

INDIA, DECCAN; 2ND HALF OF 17TH CENTURY

H: 3.5; DIAM: 31 CM

The pattern on this dish made of *bidri* metal is evidently unique and at the same time very striking. At the very center is a flower with seven petals, surrounded by intricately arranged little leaves that seem to form a two-colored peony. A quatrefoil frieze is followed by five concentric rows of leaves with silver stripes and brass contours. The two-dimensional leaves finally give way to similar three-dimensional leaves, which make up the rim of the dish. The dish can thus be viewed as a large flower, but also as a shining sun or a stylized explosion of fireworks.

Trays of this kind were often made for ewers or water pipes with matching patterns.

Published in:

Kjeld von Folsach: *Islamic art. The David Collection*, Copenhagen 1990, cat.no. 357;

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.no. 348;

Mark Zebrowski: *Gold, silver and bronze from Mughal India*, London 1997, fig. 512;

George Michell and Mark Zebrowski: *Architecture and art of the Deccan Sultanates*, Cambridge 1999, fig. 180, p. 241;

Kjeld von Folsach: *Art from the World of Islam in The David Collection*, Copenhagen 2001, cat.no. 538;

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.no. 56;

Navina Najat Haidar and Marika Sardar: *Sultans of Deccan India, 1500-1700: opulence and fantasy*, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, New Haven 2015, cat.no. 94;