



Inv. no. 13a-b/2019

TWO PANEL FRAGMENTS OF CARVED WOOD

EGYPT; 13TH-14TH CENTURY

H: 13.3; B: 14.3; D: 1.5 CM (13A/2019)

H: 2.5; B: 14.3; D: 1.5 CM (13B/2019)

These two panel fragments are decorated with a complicated, openwork arabesque pattern built up around a vertical symmetry axis. The pattern is dominated by split leaves with curled ends that shoot from several overlapping stems. In addition, a wavy plant stem with several inwardly curling side shoots runs in a narrow band along the edge of both fragments.

Both the overall composition and the individual plant forms are closely related to other carved pieces from Mamluk Egypt (7/1976, 6/2008), but similar arabesque patterns are also known for example from contemporary Iranian tiles (13/1987).

The dimensions, decorations, and wear and tear of the two fragments indicate that they originally came from the same narrow panel. It might, together with several identical panels, have formed a frieze on a door, a window, or a partition. Woodwork with composite friezes

like this has for example been preserved in the Maridani mosque in Cairo that was built in around 1340.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Bernard O'Kane: *The Mosques of Egypt, Cairo 2016. pp. 96-97.*

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