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FRITWARE TILE, MOLDED AND PAINTED IN RED AND WITH GOLD LEAF OVER A BLUE GLAZE. LAJVARDINA TYPE

IRAN, KASHAN; 2ND HALF OF 13TH CENTURY

H: 41.5; W: 38.5 CM

In around 1300, the writer Abu'l-Qasim, who came from a potter's family in Kashan, called this type *lajvardina* – of lapis lazuli – although the glaze is based on cobalt. He noted that at this point, it had replaced *minai* ware. Both types were costly since they required two firings.

This tile and others formed a long frieze on a building. The combination of Chinese-inspired phoenixes – a motif that came to Iran with the Mongols – and a Koranic inscription is actually unusual. Only rarely are figurative motifs seen in religious contexts.

Published in:

Art from the World of Islam. 8th-18th century, Louisiana, Humlebæk

1987, cat.no. 135;
Kjeld von Folsach: *Islamic art. The David Collection*, Copenhagen 1990, cat.no. 147;
Kjeld von Folsach: *Fabelvæsner fra Islams Verden*, Davids Samling, København 1991, cat.no. 54;
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. 252;
Kjeld von Folsach: *Art from the World of Islam in The David Collection*, Copenhagen 2001, cat.no. 215;
Yuka Kadoi: *Islamic chinoiserie: the art of Mongol Iran*, Edinburgh 2009, fig. 2.10;
Jonathan Bloom og Sheila Blair (eds.): *And diverse are their hues: color in Islamic art and culture*, New Haven 2011, p. 43, fig. 32;