



Inv. no. 24/1970

LIDDED BOWL, CAST BRASS, INLAID WITH SILVER AND GOLD

SYRIA; 15TH CENTURY

H: 6; DIAM: 12.8 CM

This bowl, whose original silver and gold inlay has almost disappeared, is an extreme example of the sumptuous total decoration of the surface often found on Islamic works of art. Both the bowl and its lid have carefully composed, concentric patterns consisting of interlacing and arabesques, and only the outermost edges are plain. The bowl was furthermore inlaid with a red, lacquer-like mass that increased the coloristic effect.

Metalwork of this type was exported to Europe, and many pieces have either a European coat of arms or empty spaces that could later be engraved with one. In Venice, goods were produced that imitated the Syrian originals.

Published in:

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