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FRITWARE TILE, PAINTED IN BLUE UNDER A TRANSPARENT GLAZE

TURKEY, IZNIK; C. 1505

H: 9; W: 36 CM

Tiles identical to this one embellish the mausoleum of Prince Mahmud in Bursa, completed in 912 H (1506-1507). Stylistically, the tile belongs to the earliest group of famous Ottoman Iznik pottery, which was made in the city formerly called Nicaea, from the 15th century.

The style, a further development of the Timurid, is characterized by the use of palmettes, stems that often form knots or geometric patterns and feature very unnaturalistic little flowers. Formerly, the style was associated with a potter known only as Abraham of Kütahya, but now it is frequently called the *Baba Nakkas* style, after an Ottoman court designer who was active from the 1480s.

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