



Inv. no. 45/1999

OIL LAMP, BRASS INLAID WITH SILVER

WESTERN IRAN OR EASTERN TURKEY; 1470S

H: 122; DIAM: C. 40 CM

This monumental oil lamp consists of two parts, the lower a traditional candlestick and the upper a shaft with a bowl for oil. It must be considered one of the last masterpieces in the inlaying tradition.

The splendidly calligraphed *Thuluth* inscription shows that the lamp was ordered by or for the leader of the Aq Qoyunlu Turkmen, Uzun Hasan, who ruled eastern Anatolia, Iraq, and large parts of Iran in around 1470. It was presumably intended to be placed in the mausoleum of the Sufi sheikh Hacı Bayram Veli in Ankara, but this was prevented by the Ottoman sultan Mehmed II, who defeated Uzun Hasan soundly at Tercan in eastern Anatolia in 1473.

Published in:

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A. S. Melikian-Chirvani: "The lights of Sufi shrines" in *Islamic art*, 2, 1987, pp. 126-131, pl. 7-8 and figs. 1 and 12-20;

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