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INCENSE BURNER, CAST AND ENGRAVED BRONZE, LATER CHAIN

SYRIA OR PALESTINE; 8TH-9TH CENTURY

H: 11; DIAM: C. 10 CM

In the first centuries after the *hijra*, the Muslims conquered extensive territories inhabited by Jews and Christians. They were largely allowed to live in peace and to keep and practice their religions as long as they paid poll taxes to the Muslim authorities.

The Christian incense burner – with quite primitive depictions in relief of the Annunciation, Christ's birth and baptism, the Crucifixion, and the tomb of Christ – belongs to a group that is normally ascribed to the Syrian and Palestinian area. This attribution is further confirmed by the unique inscription in early *Kufi* that can be translated as follows: "In the name of Allah (God), made by Yaqub, son of Ishaq from Damascus."

The Crucifixion

The tomb of Christ

The virgin Mary with Jesus, around them the unique inscription in early *Kufi*

Published in:

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. 33;

Kjeld von Folsach: *Art from the World of Islam in The David Collection*, Copenhagen 2001, cat.no. 454;

Joachim Meyer: *Sensual Delights: Incense Burners and Rosewater Sprinklers from the World of Islam*, The David Collection, Copenhagen 2015, cat.no. 1;