



Inv. no. Isl 191

FRITWARE TILE WITH A DRAGON IN LUSTRE

KASHAN, IRAN; 13TH CENTURY

H: 16; W: 35 CM

The dragon motif is found throughout the entire Islamic world and occurs in both early and late Islamic art. This mythical creature does not, however, symbolize the same thing in the eastern part of the Islamic region as it does in the western. While the eastern dragon has traditionally been viewed as good and auspicious, the western dragon has been considered threatening and evil.

Following the Mongols' incursion into the Islamic world in the middle of the 13th century, the dragon was depicted like the one shown here. In keeping with Chinese tradition, the monster now has a long, serpent-like, scaly body with four legs and powerful claws. Little flame-like wings emerge from the legs and thick "whiskers" grow from the head.

Published in:

Paul Graupe, Berlin, 14.4-1934, lot 662;

Kjeld von Folsach: *Fabelvæsner fra Islams Verden, Davids Samling*, København 1991, cat.no. 36;

