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LAMP HOLDER, CAST BRONZE WITH OPENWORK, ENGRAVED, AND PUNCHED DECORATION

SPAIN, ANDALUSIA; 10TH CENTURY

H: 50.5 CM

This candlestick – or perhaps lamp holder – is of a type that was only found in Umayyad Spain. The central, temple-like architectural section, in particular, brings to mind Byzantine art, which in fact also exerted a major influence on architecture, mosaics, and other decorative art in Cordoba under the caliphs. The Arabic word *baraka* (blessing) is repeated around the base.

There are a number of fragmentary lamp holders of this type, some of which feature more a detailed treatment of the architectural elements and the birds that crown them. The museum's piece, in contrast, is the most complete.

Published in:

Sotheby's London, 17/10-1984, lot 165;
James W. Allan: *Metalwork of the Islamic world: the Aron Collection*, London 1986, p. 20;
Kjeld von Folsach: *Islamic art. The David Collection*, Copenhagen 1990, cat.no. 299;
Jerrilynn D. Dodds (ed.): *Al-Andalus: the art of Islamic Spain*, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York 1992, cat.no. 11;
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. 194;
Markus Hattstein and Peter Delius (eds.): *Islam: art and architecture*, Berlin 2000, p. 214;
Éric Delpont (ed.): *Les Andalousies de Damas à Cordoue*, Institut du monde arabe, Paris 2000, cat.no. 93a;
Kjeld von Folsach: *Art from the World of Islam in The David Collection*, Copenhagen 2001, cat.no. 455;
Juan Zozaya: "Aeria de transición: objetos con base de cobre de los siglos VII al IX en al-Andalus" in *Arqueología medieval*, 11, 2011, pp. 11-24;
Venetia Porter and Mariam Rosser-Owen (eds.): *Metalwork and material culture in the Islamic world: art, craft and text: essays presented to James W. Allan*, London 2012, pp. 289-291, 293 note 11 (no photo);
Joachim Meyer: "The body language of a parrot: an incense burner from the Western Mediterranean" in *Journal of the David Collection*, 4, 2014, p. 34, fig. 11;