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MOSQUE LAMP, BRONZE WITH CLOISSONNÉ ENAMEL DECORATION

CHINA; 19TH CENTURY?

H: 25; DIAM: 23 CM

As early as the 9th century, a large number of products were made in China for export to the Islamic world. Porcelain and textiles were the most important trade goods, but refined works of art in other materials could also be sold, especially if they were furnished with Arabic inscriptions.

This lamp, which was probably made for a local Chinese-Muslim clientele, illustrates a fascinating mixture of traditional Chinese and Muslim craft traditions. While the form and script can be related directly to the mosque lamps of the Arab world, the style of the decoration, with lotus patterns, is characteristically Han Chinese.

The cloisonné enamel technique was evidently already known in China in the late Yuan period (13th-14th century), but developed in earnest under the succeeding dynasties. In this technique, glass paste of various colors is placed within pattern-shaping enclosures (

*cloisons*) in metal objects, usually copper or bronze. The decorated object is then fired until the glass melts, after which the surface is polished until it is smooth and even.

Published in:

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Yuka Kadoi: "From China to Denmark: a "Mosque lamp" in context" in *Journal of the David Collection*, 4, 2014, p. 202, fig. 1;

Daniel C. Waugh: "The David Collection: Journal of the David Collection. 4" in *The Silk road*, 2014, 12, *Featured museum*, I, fig. 6;

Yuka Kadoi: *The Blue road: mastercrafts from Persia*, Liang Yi Museum, Hong Kong [2018], cat.no. E3, p. 93;

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