



Inv. no. 12/2002

CAT. 15. SILK TEXTILE WITH ANIMALS AND MYTHICAL CREATURES
IN VINE SCROLLS

CENTRAL ASIA OR EASTERN IRAN; 13TH CENTURY

Textiles woven in or near Central Asia have shown the influence of both East and West since ancient times, and this is also true of this vibrant silk.

The inscription frieze at the top is based on Arabic, and both the griffins and the lions have a clear Western look. The lively arabesque-like swirling vines in two layers (one red, the other brown) point in both directions, while the heavy, colorful flowerheads are clearly inspired by the Chinese lotus and peony.

The frieze is a good example of how calligraphy and vegetal ornamentation were merged into an artistic whole. In contrast to the somewhat older bowl (cat.no. 34), where letters develop into plants, these end in animal heads of different types.

