



Inv. no. 6/1976

IVORY BOX

SICILY OR SOUTHERN ITALY; 12TH CENTURY

H: 8.3; L: 15.3; D: 8.7 CM

This little box consists of ivory plaques attached with bone pegs to a wooden frame. It belongs to a group of related ivories with painted decorations that are presumed to have been made by Muslim craftsmen in Sicily or southern Italy in the 12th-13th century, after the region had come under Christian dominance.

These ivories feature traditional Islamic elements such as arabesques, animal medallions, and in some cases also *Kufi* inscriptions. This box is moreover distinctive for its painted fittings on the sides and lid, in imitation of metal fittings.

Published in:

Kjeld von Folsach: *Islamic art. The David Collection*, Copenhagen 1990, cat.no. 281;

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. 192;

Kjeld von Folsach: *Art from the World of Islam in The David Collection*, Copenhagen 2001, cat.no. 407;

