Inv. no. 39b/1995

'THE HOLY *MAHMAL*'. PRINT ON PAPER

MIDDLE EAST; 20TH CENTURY

H: 34; W: 48 CM

The annual pilgrimage to the Kaaba in Mecca, the ***hajj***, is made in the last month of the Islamic lunar calendar, *Dhu al-Hijja*. All Muslims should make the pilgrimage at least once in their lifetime, but Islamic law provides for a number of exceptions for people who are unable to make the journey for some reason or other.

This print shows the annual pilgrimage caravan from Egypt to Mecca. The Egyptian governor had a beautifully decorated symbolic litter, called a *mahmal*, transported on camelback. The last Egyptian *mahmal* embarked on the journey from Cairo to Mecca and back in 1926.

Published in:
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. 22;