

Object Summary



Silver-Inlaid Brass Tray with Inscription Cartouches

19th-20th century

Egypt or Syria

Ottoman (Mamluk Revival)

Object Summary

Copper alloy, silver

Diameter: 26 1/2 in. (67.3 cm)

This tray was made during an artistic period popularly known as "Mamluk Revival." The Mamluks (1250-1517) ruled in Egypt and Syria and were great patrons of metalwork, particularly brass inlaid with silver. The beautiful metalwork of the Mamluk period also attracted foreign audiences and was exported to Europe via the Italian port of Venice. Under the rule of the Ottoman dynasty (1517-1924), the production of metalwork in Syria and Egypt entered a period of relative decline. However, by the late nineteenth century, blossoming local and foreign markets led to a revival of brass inlay in Damascus and Cairo. The resultant wares were termed "Mamluk Revival," because they imitated the styles and techniques of the earlier Mamluk metalwork.