

AMIR MOHTASHEMI



Iznik Tile

Ottoman Turkey, c. 1550

Fritware with underglaze decoration

33cm square

Provenance: Dutch private collection

Stock no.: A5616

A square fritware tile painted in shades of cobalt and turquoise blue on a white ground, with a pattern consisting of portions of stylised flowers at the sides resting on a circle of vines, and a string of small white flowers set amidst a large saz leaf and flowers in the middle. The flower petals and leaves all feature white outlines, thus giving a strong graphic appearance. One edge has a flower with multiple inner compartments in turquoise and serrated petals surrounding it. A sense of symmetry is maintained with two similar flowers on opposite ends.

This tile design can be seen in the Eyüp Sultan Tomb and Mosque, Istanbul, where Abu Ayyub al-Ansari, a companion of the Prophet Muhammad, is said to be buried. Examples of tiles of this design can also be found in the Louvre, Paris ([AD10477.1](#)), Victoria and Albert Museum, London ([412-1905](#), 1684-1892) and the British Museum, London ([1878,1230.534.b](#), [1878,1230.534.c](#)), and on a wall in the Arab Hall of Leighton House, London.