

AMIR MOHTASHEMI



Iznik Tile

Ottoman Turkey, c. 1575

Fritware with underglaze decoration

23.5cm high, 24cm wide

Provenance: Spink & Son, London, 3 April 2000.

Stock no.: A5522

This fritware tile is decorated with white *hatayi* flowers on a cobalt blue ground. The flowers are connecting by swirling viridian green stems with feathery saz leaves. A large palmette with serrated leaves blooms, at the centre of which is a composite flower of red bole, cobalt blue, and viridian green. To the left of this is an incomplete composite mandorla-shaped flower, filled with white blossoms on a turquoise ground. This tile is a border piece, as the decoration is framed by red bole lines and on one side by an entirely different decorative scheme, featuring blue palms on a white field.

A number of similar tiles exist in the Louvre, dated to 1550-1600 (accession nos [OA 3919/155](#), [OA 3919/161](#), [AD 5995/16](#)). An identical group of tiles is held in the Benaki Museum, Athens (inv. no. 71), dated to c. 1575.¹

¹ Carswell, John, and Mina Moraitou. *Iznik Ceramics at the Benaki Museum*. Athens: Gingko/The Benaki Museum, 2023, pp. 188-199.