

SOME PERSIAN LUSTRE CERAMICS

IN

Dr. ALI PASHA IBRAHIM'S COLLECTION

BY

Dr. ZAKY M. HASSAN

On January 28, 1947, Dr. Aly Pasha Ibrahim died at his Cairo home, at the age of sixty-seven. He was the leading surgeon in Egypt and was the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, then Minister of Public Health, and finally Rector of Fouad I University and was still holding this function when he died.

During the last forty years of his life, he was collecting works of Muslim Art, particularly carpets and ceramics. His collection of Oriental rugs, especially Persian and Turkish is the best in Egypt. And, indeed, it is one of the best in the whole world. The Ottoman Turkish style of Muslim Art is splendidly represented, in Dr. Ali Pasha Ibrahim's private museum, by a considerable number of panels of tiles and tens of dishes, dating from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. His museum includes also a very fine collection of Persian ceramics from the ninth to the seventeenth century. Most of the different periods and techniques are represented in this collection and sometimes by pieces, which have acquired a wide reputation in the world of Muslim Art.

The collection of Fatimid lustre ware in Dr. Ali Pasha Ibrahim's museum is remarkable, because of the signed pieces which it contains proving that this ware was produced in Egypt by Egyptian artists.

The Fouad I University decided to publish a comprehensive study of Ali Pasha Ibrahim's collections. The present article contains few items of the Persian lustre ware.

Bowl.—White ground decorated with gold lustre. A seated figure with a pointed cap is playing a guitar; densely stippled background of gold flecks. On the reverse circles separated by stylized branches.

Iran (Rayy), IX century

Inv. No. 1

D. 22.8 cm.

H. 9.3 cm.

Pub.: M. PÉZARD: *La Céramique archaïque de l'Islam*, Pl. 117.

CH. VIGNIER: *Catalogue de l'Exposition d'Art Oriental*, Paris 1925, No. 729, Pl. 18.

Collection René Pottier, Pl. 9.

KOECHLIN UND MIGEON: *Islamische Kunstwerke* Pl. 1.

G. WIET: *Exposition d'Art Persan*, Le Caire 1935, Pl. 25.

A Survey of Persian Art, vol V, Pl. 579, Fig. 1.

R. GROSSET: *Les Civilisations de l'Orient*, t. I, Fig. 124.

زکی محمد حسن : *الفنون الإيرانية في العصر الاسلامی ، اللوحة ۷۳*

cf. A. U. POPE: *An Introduction to Persian Art*, Fig. 28.

Bowl.—White ground decorated with gold lustre. A seated figure on a densely stippled background of gold flecks. It obviously has some relation to the piece No. 1 in the collection (Fig. 1), but it has made less concession to naturalism. On the reverse circles and conventionalized branches with the Arabic word 'بركة' (blessing) in Kufic.

Iran (Rayy), IX century

Inv. No. 245

D. 22.5 cm.

H. 7.8 cm.

cf. *A Survey of Persian Art*, vol. V, Pl. 579.

M. PÉZARD: *La Céramique Archaïque de l'Islam*, Pls. 114-117.



FIG. 1



FIG. 2

Bowl.—White ground decorated with gold lustre. The figure of a duck fitting into the contour of the vessel in a masterly fashion ; just proportions as well as graceful curving lines : underneath illegible inscription (the second part of the word 'الصاحبه'?).

Iran, IX-X century

Inv. No. 84

D. 9.2 cm.

H. 2.7 cm.

cf. A Survey of Persian Art, vol. V, Pls. 576, 577. M. Pézard : La Céramique Archaique de l'Islam, Pls. 119, 122.

Cup.—White ground decorated with greenish gold lustre. In the centre is a lion, its forepaw lifted in the ancient Eastern gesture of adoration. Four flying birds around the rim ; stippled background.

Iran, IX-X century

Inv. No. 38

D. 15.0 cm.

H. 3.7 cm.

Pub. : G. WIET : Exposition d'Art Musulman, Musée Arabe, Le Caire, Février—Mars 1947, No. 59

cf. A Survey of Persian Art, vol. V, Pl. 578.

A. BUTLER : Islamic Pottery, Pl. XLI.

زکی محمد حسن : الفنون الإيرانية في العصر الاسلامی (الطبعة الثانية) ،
ص ۱۸۷ وشکل ح



FIG. 3



FIG. 4

5

Small Jug.—With spout and handle. White ground decorated with brown lustre. On the neck a carelessly drawn motive like a cross. The following Arabic words in *naskhi* (cursive script) : 'العز والاقبال والسلامة' (glory and prosperity and peace).

Iran (Rayy ?), XI-XII century

Inv. No. 122

H. 9.7 cm.

6

Bowl.—Early lustre painted ware ; decorated with a figure of a deer having a jewelled band around the neck ; stippled background.

Iran (Rayy ?), X-XI century

Inv. No. 82

D. 13.3 cm.

H. 3.6 cm.

Pub. : G. WIET : Exposition d'Art Musulman, Musée Arabe, Le Caire, Février-Mars 1947, No. 58.

زكى محمد حسن : الفنون الإسلامية في العصر الإسلامي (الطبعة الثانية)،
ص ١٨٧ وشكل ط

زكى محمد حسن : في معرض الآثار الإسلامية (مجلة الكتاب بالقاهرة،
مارس سنة ١٩٤٧)

cf. R. GROUSSET : Les Civilisations de l'Orient, t. I, fig. 124 bis.
A Survey of Persian Art, vol. V, Pl. 578.

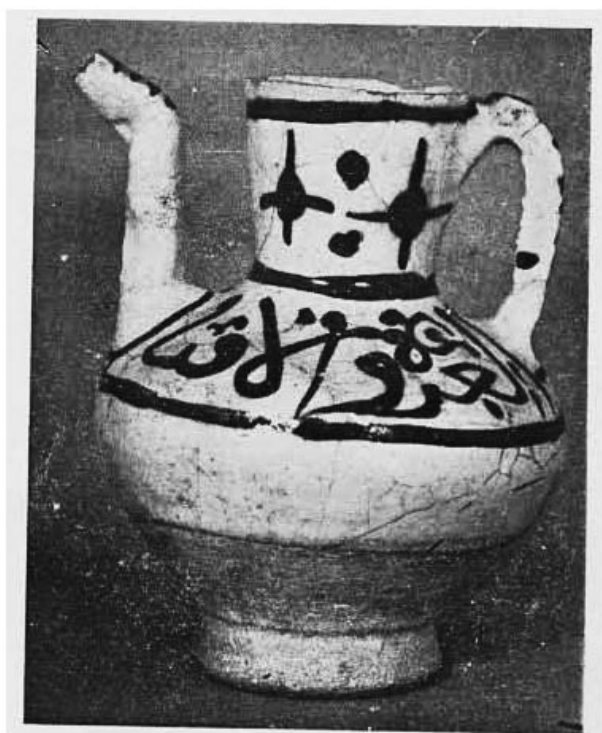


FIG. 6

Bowl.—A figure of a bird, perhaps a peacock, is caught in a rich background of foliage. The figure is reserved in white; the background is covered with brown lustre broken only by the spiral foliage, leaves and half-palmettes reserved in white.

Iran (Rayy), XII century

Inv. No. 39

D. 15.1 cm.

H. 6.0 cm.

Pub. : G. WIET : Exposition d'Art Musulman, Musée Arabe, Le Caire, Février-Mars 1947, No. 65 et Pl. XIV.

زکی محمد حسن : الفنون الإيرانية في العصر الاسلامی (الطبعة الثانية)،
ص ۲۰۷ شکل س

cf. A Survey of Persian Art, vol. V, Pls. 634, 635.

Bowl.—Lustre painted ware; with radial segments, containing scrolls and foliage reserved in white or painted in blue and brown lustre. On the reverse circular bands of scrolls.

Iran (Rayy), XII-XIII century

Inv. No. 100

D. 15.0 cm.

H. 6.5 cm.

cf. E. KÜHNEL : Sammlung Oskar Skaller, Abb. 43

R. L. HOBSON : A Guide to the Islamic Pottery of the Near East, Fig. 44.

A Survey of Persian Art, vol. V, Pl. 648.

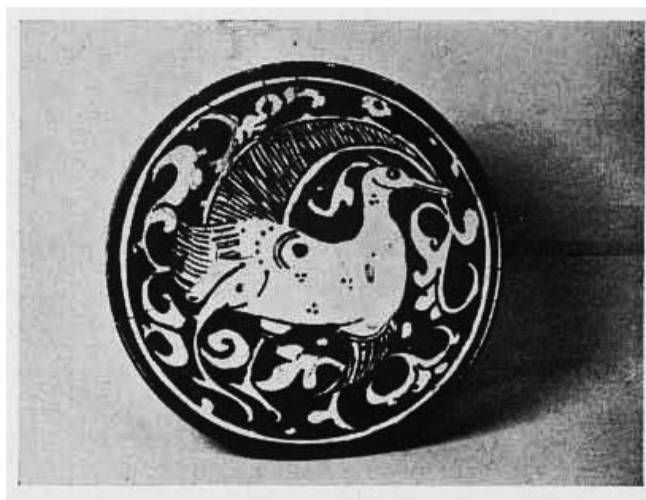


FIG. 7



FIG. 8

Bowl.—Ground alternately cream with decorations of green lustre and green lustre with decoration reserved in cream. A dog is fighting its way through foliage in a four-sided space. To energy of line and pose has been added the energy of suggested movement. The rim and background patterns are composed of leaves and graceful scrolls, some of which contain bird figures.

Iran (Rayy), XII century

Inv. No. 109

D. 20.2 cm.

H. 8.0 cm.

Pub.: G. WIET: Exposition d'Art Musulman, Musée Arabe, Le Caire, Février-Mars 1947, No. 67.

زكى محمد حسن : الفنون الإيرانية في العصر الإسلامي (الطبعة الثانية)
ص ٢٠٨ وشكل ف

زكى محمد حسن : في معرض الآثار الإسلامية (مجلة الكتاب بالقاهرة
مارس سنة ١٩٤٧) ص ٧٣٠ وشكل ٧

cf. A Survey of Persian Art, vol. V, Pls. 634, 635.

10

Bowl.—Lustre painted ware. Background alternately gold and cream lusted. A figure of a bird in the centre, and a circular illegible inscription in cursive script, probably containing the Arabic words 'اليمين، الإقبال' (happiness, prosperity). On the rim a Kufic inscription in brown lustre on a cream-coloured background.

Iran (Rayy), XII-XIII century

Inv. No. 205

D. 18.5 cm.

H. 7.4 cm.

Pub.: G. WIET: Exposition d'Art Musulman, Musée Arabe, Le Caire, Février-Mars 1947, No. 51.

زكى محمد حسن : الفنون الإيرانية في العصر الإسلامي (الطبعة الثانية)
ص ٢٠٨ وشكل ع

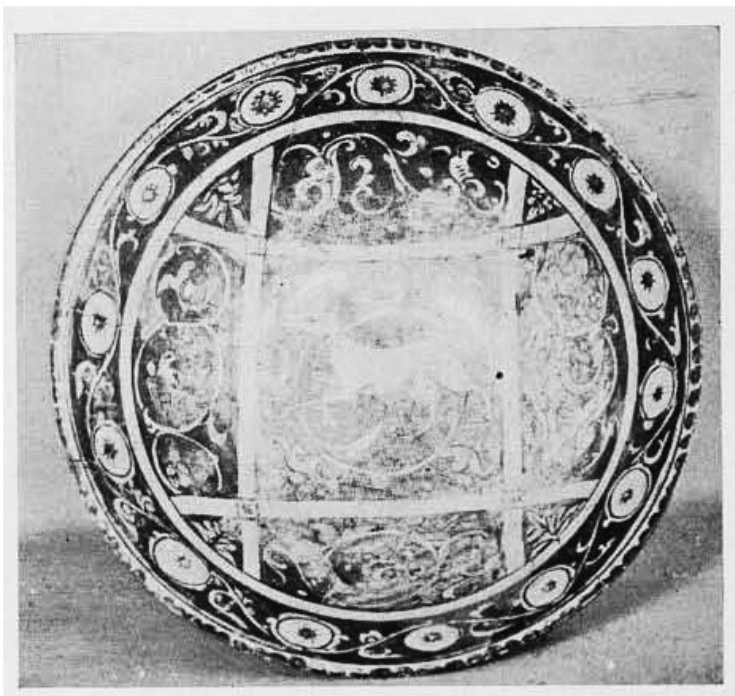


FIG. 9



FIG. 10

11

Bowl.—Denticulated rim, greenish lustre ground with decoration reserved in white. A graceful peacock caught in background of foliage, leaves and halfpalmettes.

Iran (Rayy), XII century

Inv. No. 204

D. 16.2 cm.

H. 4.0 cm.

cf. M. DIMAND: A handbook of Muhammadan Art. (2nd ed.) Fig. 114.

R. KÖEHLIN UND G. MIGEON: Islamische Kunstwerke, Pl. XVIII. Collection de M. J. M. de Teheran, Art Persan (Hotel Drouot, Paris, mai 1929). No. 31 et Pls. VII.

A Survey of Persian Art, vol. V, Pls. 634-635.

12

Plate.—Blue ground decorated with brown lustre. In the centre a cross-like motive having between the arms a part of a pseudo-Kufic inscription, the four of which form a circle. On the border a band of tiny plant motives.

Iran (Rayy), XII century

Inv. No. 139

D. 26.0 cm.

H. 5.0 cm.

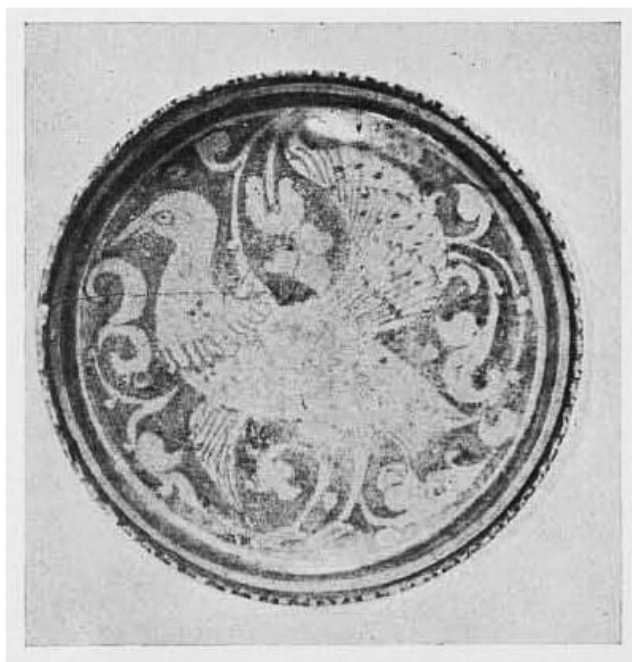


FIG. 11

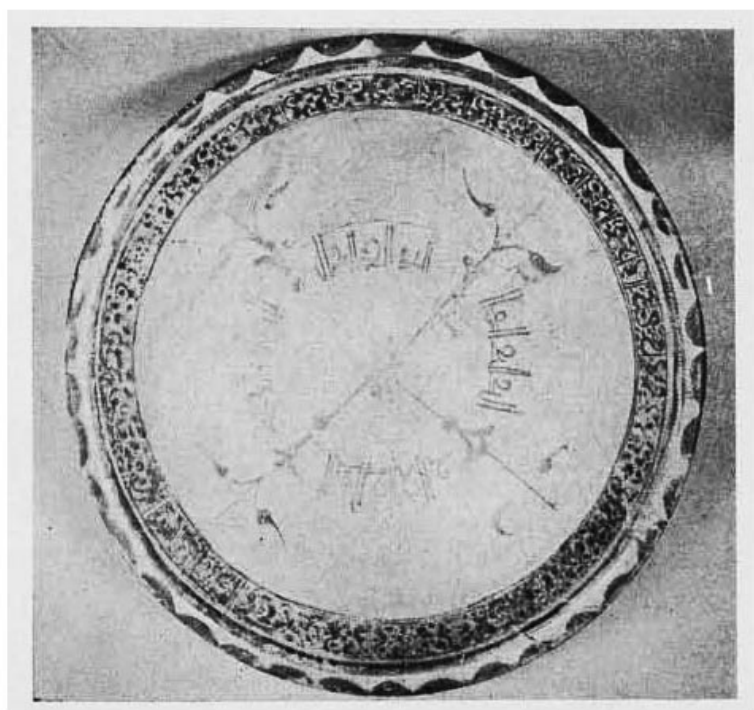


FIG. 12

13

Ewer.—Ground cream-coloured with decorations of brown lustre and brown lustre with decoration reserved in cream. Vertical compartments with a rather dense lacework of foliage.

Iran (Rayy), XII-XIII century

Inv. No. 47

H. 14·0 cm.

cf. A Survey of Persian Art, vol V, Pl. 637 B.

زكى محمد حسن : الفنون الإيرانية في العصر الاسلامى ، اللوحة ٨٤ شكل ٩٣

14

Lobed Bowl.—Blue ground with black lustre decoration. Cartouches containing arabesques and floral motives both inside and outside.

Iran (Rayy), XII-XIII century

Inv. No. 107

D. 15·5 cm.

H. 9·5 cm.

cf. A Picture Book of Persian Pottery (Victoria and Albert Museum), fig 7. A Survey of Persian Art, vol. V, Pl. 650 A.



FIG. 14

Plate.—Cream-coloured ground decorated in brown and gold lustre or decoration reserved in a gold lustre background. A figure of a bird in the centre, on a floral background. Panels and compartments of foliage and round tiny leaves.

Iran (Rayy), XII-XIII century

Inv. No. 5

D. 19.5 cm.

H. 6.0 cm.

Human Figure.—Decorated with foliated motives in brown lustre on a blue background.

Iran (Rayy), XII-XIII century

Inv. No. 286

H. 13.5 cm.

cf. E. K. KÜHNEL: Islamische Kleinkunst, Abb. 52.

زكى محمد حسن : الفنون الإيرانية في العصر الاسلامى ، اللوحة ٩٩ شكل ١١٠

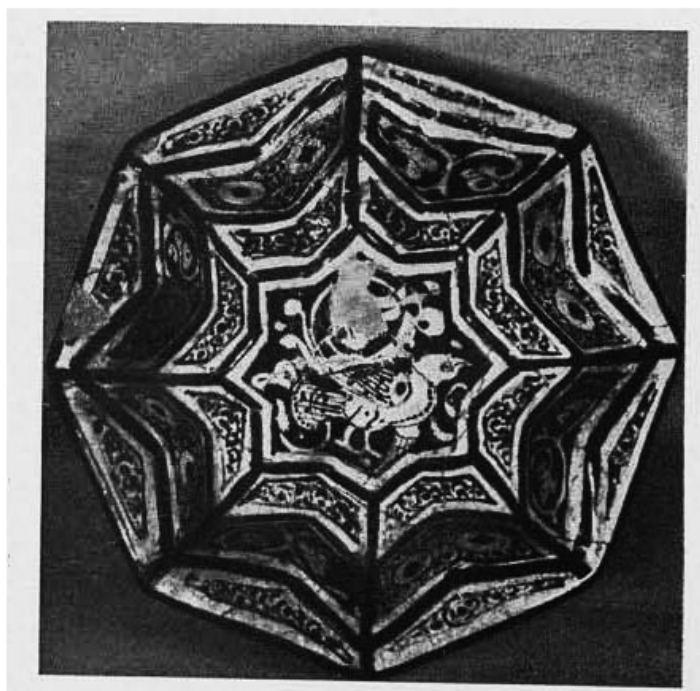


FIG. 16

Bowl.—Cream-coloured ground decorated in gold lustre or decoration reserved in lustre background. Seven roundels separated by chains of arabesques and containing sphinx figures. A border pattern of debased Kufic lettering. On the reverse compartments of scrolls in dark red.

Iran (Rayy), XII–XIII century

Inv. No. 292

D. 21·6 cm.

H. 9·6 cm.

cf. A Survey* of Persian Art, vol. V, Pl. 638. The Kelekian Collection of Persian and Analogous Potteries, Pl. 26.

Bowl.—Cream-coloured ground decorated in gold and brown lustre. In the centre a medallion with radiating arms (sun design). Around the rim triangles ending with a three-lobed leaf and containing a white circle with two big superposed gold dots.

Iran (Rayy), XII–XIII century

Inv. No. 5

D. 18·5 cm.

H. 7·8 cm.

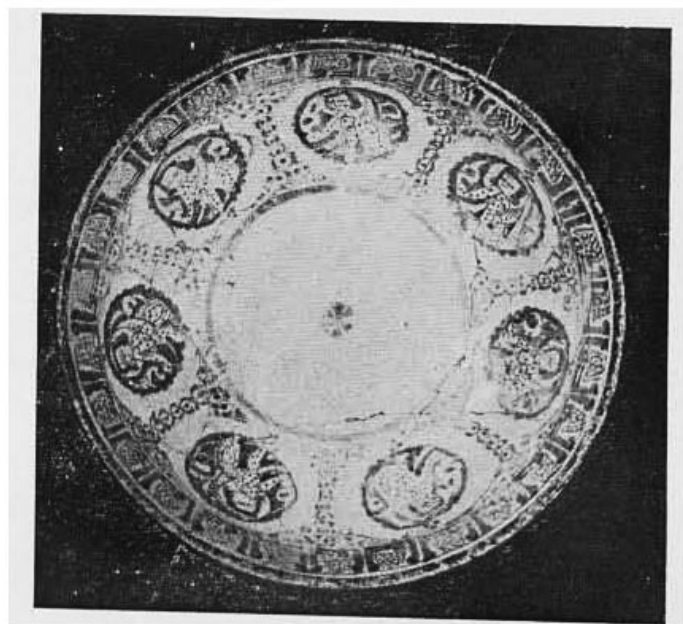


FIG. 17

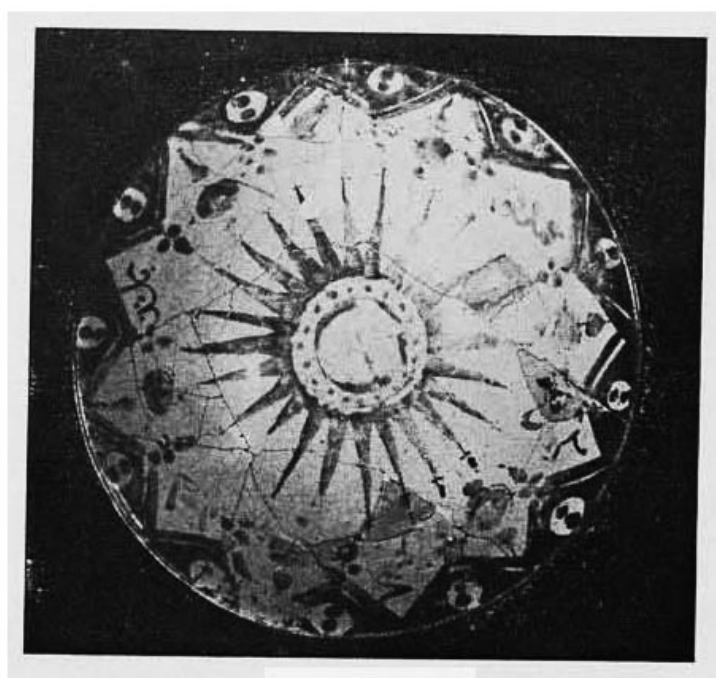


FIG. 18

Bowl.—With broad rim. Cream-coloured ground decorated in brown and gold lustre. In the centre a medallion containing a seated figure surrounded by two Persian verses separated by escutcheons. Around the rim a band containing a pseudo-inscription in cursive. On the reverse a broad band containing six medallions, each having a leaf design.

Iran (Rayy or Kashan), XIII century

Inv. No. 201

D. 20·3 cm.

H. 9·6 cm.

cf. G. MIGEON: *Manuel d'Art Musulman*, t. 2, Fig. 344.

A Survey of Persian Art, vol. V, Pl. 703 B.

Bowl.—With broad rim. Cream-coloured ground decorated in brown and gold lustre or decoration reserved in gold lustre. A central medallion surrounded by five others, all decorated with palmettes and floral designs. On the reverse a broad band of ten medallions, each containing a big leaf design.

Iran (Rayy or Kashan), XIII century

Inv. No. 200

D. 24·8 cm.

H. 12·0 cm.

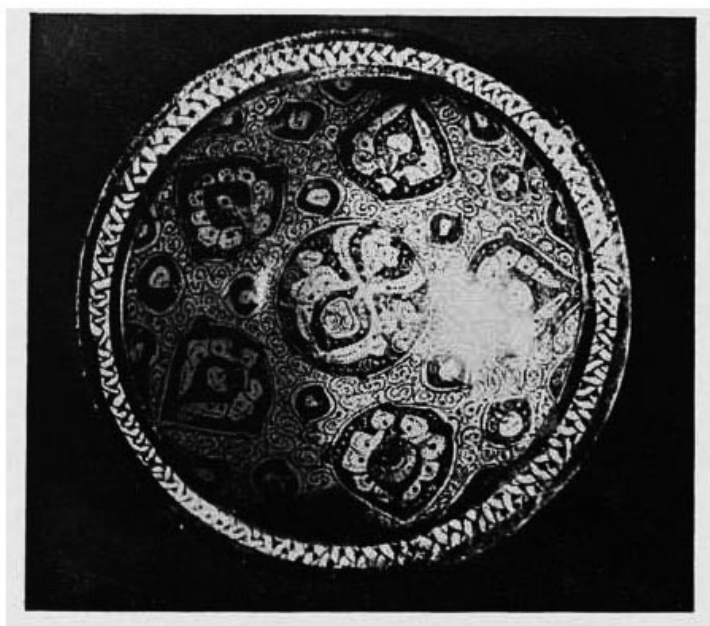


FIG. 20

21

Bottle.—Body divided into irregular compartments. Cream-coloured ground decorated in gold and brown lustre. Four roundels, each containing a single seated figure of a woman. Collar and other compartments having a dense lacework of foliage and round tiny leaves.

Iran (Rayy), XIII century

Inv. No. 291

H. 29.5 cm.

cf. Collection de M. J. M. de Teheran. Art Persan (Hotel Drouot Paris, mai 1922) No. 39 et Pl. IX. E. Kühnel: Islamische Kleinkunst Abb. 50.

22

Bowl.—Decoration reserved in brown lustre or brown lustre decoration on white background. Radiating panels alternatively white and brown containing scrolls, palmettes, foliage and Persian verses in *Muhaqqaq* script. A band of inscription, also in *Muhaqqaq* script runs around the rim.

Iran (Rayy or Kashan), XIII century

Inv. No. 50

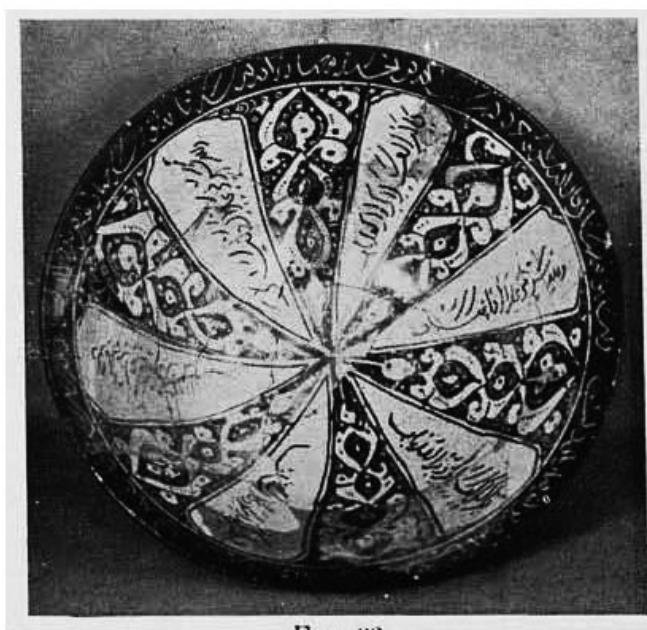
D. 20.3 cm.

H. 8.7 cm.

Pub.:

زكى محمد حسن : الفنون الإيرانية في العصر الإسلامي (الطبعة الثانية)،
ص ۲۲۶ وشكل غ

cf. The Kelekian Collection of Persian and Analogous Potteries, Pl. 75.



Bowl.—Ground of gold lustre, decoration reserved. A seated woman figure surrounded by carelessly drawn scrolls.

Iran (Rayy), XII-XIII century

Inv. No. 44

D. 10·3 cm.

H. 3·7 cm.

cf. KOECHLIN UND MIGEON, *Islamische Kunstwerke*, Pl. XIX. A Survey of Persian Art, Vol. V, Pl. 635 D.

R. ETTINGHAUSEN: Evidence for the Identification of Kashan Pottery (*Ars Islamica*, vol. III), Fig. 11.

R. L. HOBSON: A Guide to the Islamic Pottery of the Near East, Fig. 47.

H. WALLIS: Persian Ceramic Art in the Godman Collection. The Thirteenth Century Lustrated Vases, Pl. VI.

Ewer.—Bulbous body standing on a low foot. The body tapers gradually into a short neck with a wide mouth. On both sides, handles in the form of lions join the neck with the shoulder. Roundels containing foliage and tiny round leaves. Decoration reserved in gold and brown lustre. Around the mouth a Kufic inscription on the inside.

Iran (Rayy or Kashan), XIII century

Inv. No. 83

D. 10·7 cm.

H. 15·5 cm.

cf. E. KÜHNEL: *Islamische Kleinkunst*, Abb. 60.

H. GLÜCK UND E. DIEZ: *Die Kunst des Islām*, p. 414.



25

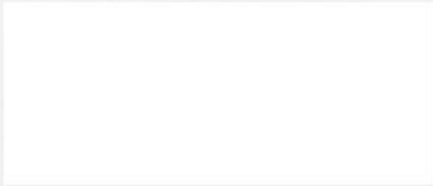
Small Jug.—Cream-coloured ground decorated in brown and green lustre. A band of scrolls and leaves.

Iran (Rayy), XIII century

Inv. No. 7

D. 6·5 cm.

H. 9·5 cm.



26

Bottle.—Cream-coloured ground decorated in brown lustre. On the body, a band of seven cavaliers separated by chequered irregularly shaped cypresses. The pattern of the neck shows the quick excited rush of the fox after the hare. A band of carelessly drawn foliation on the underbody.

Iran (Rayy), XIII century

Inv. No. 6

H. 20·5 cm.

cf. R. GROUSSET : *Les Civilisations de l'Orient*, t. I Fig. 172.

H. WALLIS : *Persian Ceramic Art in the Godman Collection*, The Thirteenth Century Lustred Vases, Pl. XIII.

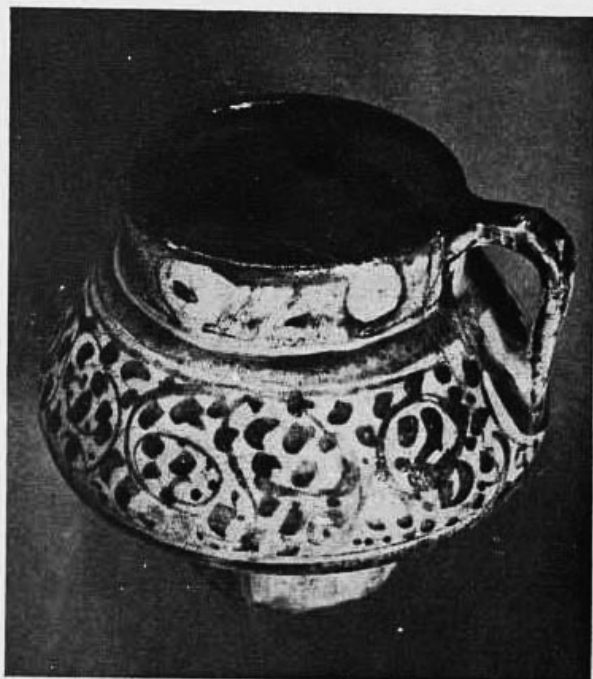


FIG. 25



FIG. 26

27

Small Jug.—With handle, cream-coloured ground decorated in brown lustre. Perpendicular compartments, alternately with foliage and with pseudo-cursive inscription.

Iran (Rayy), XIII century

Inv. No. 30

H. 13·5 cm.

28

Bowl.—Decoration reserved in brown lustre background. In the centre a figure of a bird among foliage and leaves, surrounded by radiating compartments containing alternately branches and a lattice type of ornament. On the reverse a pseudo-cursive inscription and a band of rudimentary floral decoration.

Iran (Sultanabad), XIII-XIV century

Inv. No. 112

D. 17·4 cm.

H. 7·5 cm.

cf. H. R. HOBSON: A Guide to the Islamic Pottery of the Near East, Pl. XX.



Bowl.—Polychrome lustre-painted. Small fishes in red, green and blue fill the bottom of the bowl. Around the rim, a band containing carelessly drawn comma-shaped designs. On the reverse a band of roundels with stylized floral motives; another band contains irregular floral motives.

Iran (Sultanabad), XIV-XV century

Inv. No. 108

D. 18.5 cm.

H. 11.2 cm.

Compartmental Plate.—Sweetmeat dish or plate for a certain game of draughts. Cream-coloured ground decorated in brown lustre. The depressed cups, except the central one, contain each two confronted bird figures amid scrolls; compact minute foliage fills the areas between the depressed cups.

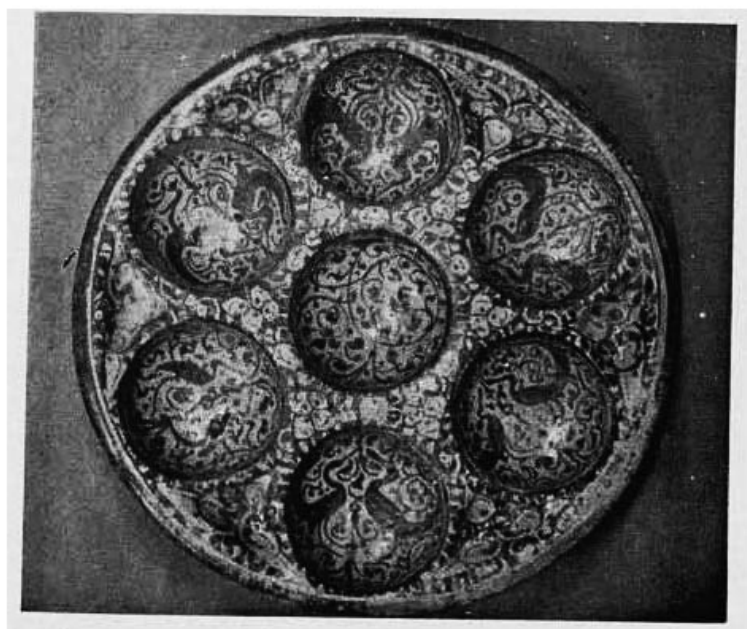
Iran, XIII century

Inv. No. 104

D. 30.0 cm.

H. 10.0 cm.

cf. A Survey of Persian Art, Vol. V, Pl. 644



31

Pitcher.—The spout like the head of a cock. Decoration reserved in brown lustre background. A central band of heart-shaped medallions containing leaves and foliage. Below the neck a band of pseudo-Kufic inscription.

Iran (Sultanbad), XIII–XIV century

Inv. No. 153

H. 29.2 cm.

Pub.:

زکی محمد حسن : الفنون الإيرانية في العصر الإسلامي ، اللوحة رقم ٩٦

32

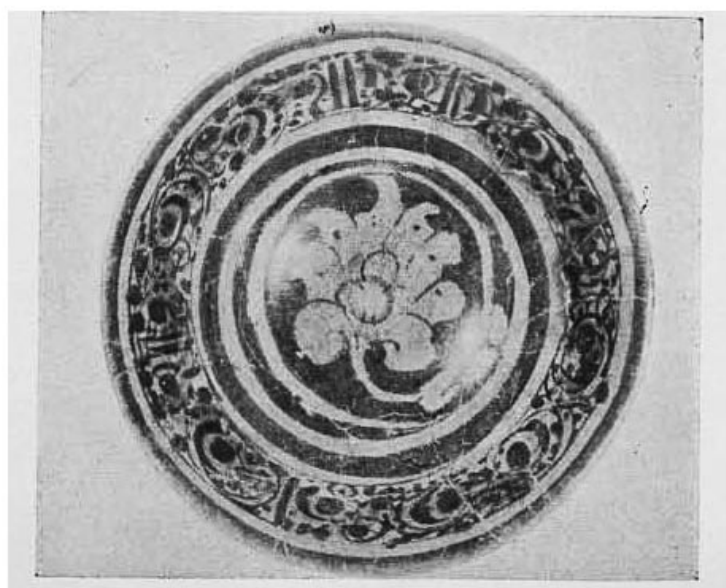
Bowl.—Blue ground. A big white flower is reserved in the centre. A band of arabesques on the rim.

Iran (Rayy), XIII century

Inv. No. 289

D. 18 cm.

H. 7.5 cm.



33

Bowl.—White ground decorated in dark brown lustre of remarkable brilliance; trees, shrubs and flowers painted in a sketchy manner.

Iran, (Kashan or Isfahan) XVII century

Inv. No. 132

D. 25·3 cm.

H. 8·5 cm.

cf. M. DIMAND: Ceramic Art of the Near East, Fig. 122.

A Survey of Persian Art, vol. V, Pls. 795-798.

R. KOECHLIN: L'Art de l'Islam. La Céramique, Fig. 58, 60 B et 63. The Kelekian Collection of Persian and Analogous Potteries, Pls. 87-90.

34

Vase—White ground decorated in dark blue lustre of remarkable brilliance. Shrubs, flowers and foliage.

Iran, (Kashan or Isfahan) XVII century

Inv. No. 28

H. 10·3 cm.

cf. R. L. HOBSON: A Guide to the Islamic Pottery of the Near East, Figures 78-80.

A Survey of Persian Art, vol. V, Pls. 795-798.

R. KOECHLIN: L'Art de l'Islam. La Céramique, Fig. 58, 60 B et 63. The Kelekian Collection of Persian and Analogous Potteries, Pls. 87-90.



35

Bowl.—White ground decorated in yellow and dark brown lustre of remarkable brilliance. Shrubs, bouquets and foliage painted in a sketely manner.

Iran (Kashan or Isfahan), XVII century

Inv. No. 340

D. 11·8 cm.

H. 5·7 cm.

cf. A Survey of Persian Art, vol V, Pls. 795-798.

R. Kœchlin: L'art de l'Islam. La Céramique, Fig. 58, 60 B et 63.
The Kelekian Collection of Persian and Analogous Potteries, Pl. 78-90.

36

Bowl.—White ground, decorated in dark brown lustre of remarkable brilliance. Rotating flower and plant motive.

Iran (Kashan or Isfahan), XVII century

Inv. No. 203

D. 20·8 cm.

H. 5·0 cm.

Pub.:

زکی محمد حسن : الفنون الإيرانية في العصر الإسلامي (الطبعة الثانية)،
ص ۲۳۷ وشکل ذ

cf. A Survey of Persian Art, vol V, pls. 795-798.

