SOLOTHBY'S
Islamic and Indian Art
Oriental Manuscripts and Miniatures
LONDON
THURSDAY 22ND AND FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER 1992
Islamic Works of Art
Day of Sale
Thursday 22nd October 1992 at 11.00 am

Followed by

Indian, Himalayan and South-East Asian Art
Day of Sale
Thursday 22nd October 1992 at 2.30 pm

Oriental Manuscripts and Miniatures
Day of Sale
Friday 23rd October 1992 at 11.00 am

For information about this sale, please consult the following:

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  - John Carwell: (071) 408 5153
  - Brendan Lynch: (071) 408 5112
- Indian and South-East Asian Art:
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- Cheryl Davies: (071) 408 5461

**Sellers’ Accounts**
- Margaret Hillhouse-Teale: (071) 408 5026

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Absence Bids
If instructed we will execute bids and advise intending purchasers. This service is free. Lots will always be bought as cheaply as is allowed by such other bids and reserves as are on our books. In the event of identical bids, the earliest will take precedence. Always indicate a ‘top limit’ – the amount in which you would bid if you were attending the auction yourself. ‘Buy’ or unlimited bids will not be accepted.

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To ensure a satisfactory service to bidders, we urge you most strongly to send bids so that we receive them at least 24 hours before the sale.

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To assist the progress of the sale, all intending buyers are asked to hold a bidding paddle before the commencement of selling. All intending purchasers who do not have a Sotheby’s card should bring with them some means of identification. The numbered paddle may be used to indicate your bids to the auctioneer during the sale. Should you be the successful buyer of any lot, please ensure that your bid paddle can be seen by the auctioneer and that it is your number that is called out. Should there be any doubt as to price or buyer, please draw the auctioneer’s attention to it immediately.

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Advice to Bidders
Further advice to bidders and purchasers follows the bidding slip printed after the last lot in this sale.

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The pre-sale estimates are intended as a guide for prospective purchasers. Any bid between the listed figures would, in our opinion, offer a fair chance of success. However all lots, depending on the degree of competition, can realise prices either above or below the listed estimates.

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- articles which have been burned or reused for a period of less than 50 years.

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Photograph: Photographs: positives and negatives which are 50 years old or over and valued at £600 or more; these require an export licence.

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Colonnade—£30

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The United Nations trade embargo prohibits us from accepting bids from any person in Iraq (including any body controlled by Iraqis or companies, wherever carried on business, or from any other person where we have reasonable cause to believe (i) that the lot(s) will be supplied or delivered to the order of a person in Iraq or (ii) that the lot(s) will be used for the purposes of any business carried on in or from operated in Iraq.

Acceptance of any bid by the auctioneer is conditional upon the above being inapplicable.

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2. EMBARGO ON IMPORTATION OF PERSIAN/IRANIAN WORKS OF ART AND CARPETS TO THE U.S.A.

These clients considering purchasing Persian/Iranian works of art or carpets with the intention of exporting them to the U.S.A. should enquire of the relevant U.S. Government Department regarding the proper importation of works. The Islamic and Carpet Department does however, remain available to assist buyers with such enquiries, so far as is practicable.

3. Clearance of lots for this particular sale

After 5pm on the day of the sale, large works of art and all carpets will be transferred to our warehouse and will be subject to our usual charges.
13

A GARRUS CARVED SLIP BOWL
Persia, 12th century
of pinkish earthenware and recessed ring base, with
a green-stained yellow slip carved with a lion against
a ground of arabesque leaves
17.6cm; 7in diameter

For this type of Garrus ware, see Lane, EBP, Plates 32,33; and Grothe, Khr Collection, pp.106-111.

(See illustration on previous page)

£1,200-1,500

16

TWO POTTERY ANIMAL FIGURINES
Persia, 12th century
one crouching lion painted in lustre with decorative
patterns, the other lion figurine with pricked ears
and a plain turquoise glaze
16cm; 6½in; and 9cm; 3½in long

For a discussion of this type of small-scale Islamic sculpture, see Ernst J. Grube, Islamic Sculpture, pp.1-11. Figure 17 illustrates a very similar small turquoise-glazed lion.

£3,500-4,700

17

A RAQQA LUSTRE JUG
Syria, 12th century
of buff earthenware with a pear-shaped body, pinched rim and single handle, the recessed base
with a nipple at the centre, decorated in underglaze
blue and brown lustre
19½in; 7½in high

For Raqqa lustre-ware, see Grobe, Raqqa and Lane, EBP, Plates 57-79.

£700-900

18

A POTTERY BOWL
Persia, late 14th/early 15th century
decorated in underglaze blue, turquoise and black
with a design of looping arabesque stems and leaves
19.6cm; 7½in diameter

£1,000-1,200

18

SIX STAR-AND-CROSS TILES
Persia, Kashan, 14th century
the eight-pointed star tiles with a raised designs and
decorated in cobalt blue and golden brown lustre,
with lotus and floral spray, one with a bird, the
borders inscribed: the cross tiles with a moulded
arabesque design under a turquoise glaze
star and cross tiles, 21cm; 8½in between points

An identical tile-panel with the same floral and flying bird
design is in the Victoria and Albert Museum, London; for
a colour illustration of a detail, see Watson, Colour Plate M.

£2,000-2,500
30
AN ABRASID BLUE-AND-WHITE BOWL
Iraq, 9th-10th century
with everted rim and narrow foot ring, of off-white
ware with an opacified tin glaze with blue
decoration, a rosette within a six-pointed star and
palmettes at the points
21.2cm; 8¼in diameter

The shape is based on a Chinese stoneware prototype
of the Tang dynasty, of a type known to have been
imported into the Near East; for this type of bowl, see Lane, EIP, Plates 8-9. Grube, Kerim, pp.34-36, discusses the type at
length and gives a list of recorded pieces in note 2.

£2,500-2,700

(See illustration on page 17)

31
A NISHAPUR IMITATION LUSTRE BOWL
Persia, 10th century
of reddish earthenware with everted rim and flat
disc base, with a cream-coloured slip, and painted
in imitation lustre brown and ochre with an
asymmetrical design of half-palmettes and
peacock’s eyes on a dotted ground, with a field of
dotted spirals below
21.7cm; 8½in diameter

For this type see Wilkinson, Nishapur, Colour Plate 8,
pp.190, 205-206

£1,800-2,000

(See illustration on page 17)

32
AN AMOL YELLOW-GROUND BOWL
Persia, 11th/12th century
of reddish earthenware, a disc base, with a cream-
coloured slip and green decoration, incised under
the glaze with a leafy scroll at the rim between
centric rings
19.2cm; 7½in diameter

The piece belongs to a rare type pre-dating the more
elaborate incised ware with green and manganese glaze
splashes of the 15th century generally attributed to the
Amol district; for this type, see Lane, EIP, Plates 35A, 35B.

£1,000-1,200

33
AN INCISED POTTERY BOWL
Persia, 10th/11th century
of pinkish earthenware, with straight sides and
slightly concave disc base, the interior glazed with a
cream slip and incised with triangular and flag-like
panels of scribbled decoration between roughly-
drawn pairs of concentric rings suggesting a
reserved inscription, the outside unglazed
21cm; 8in diameter

Exhibited:
Calligraphy and the Decorative Arts of Islam, Blouet & Sons
Ltd., London, 1976, pp.69-70, nos.30, where the
inscription was tentatively interpreted as reading baha
('Heaven')

For similar pieces found at Nishapur, see Wilkinson,
Nishapur, pp.228ff. For the type in general, see Lane, EIP,
pp.25ff.

£1,000-1,200

34
A KASHAN LUSTRE DISH
Persia, early 12th century
of buff-coloured ware, with a scalloped rim,
decorated in underglaze blue and golden brown
lustre, the slightly concave petal shaped panels
painted with the Arabic for ‘Glory’ and other
decorative motifs
16.5cm; 6½in diameter

For the question of the attribution of Seljuk lustre-ware
to Rayy or Kashan, see Watson, and also the detailed
discussion in his article, see Watson, Rayy and Kashans,
pp.17-18, Plates 1-16. This piece is highly unusual in form;
no identical piece appears to have been recorded. Its
origin can be found in Song dynasty Chinese ware, for
instance, among early 12th century pottery from a hoard
found in a sand-dune in Sri Lanka in 1977; see Carwath,

£1,000-1,200

35
A FRAGMENTARY INSCRIBED NISHAPUR
BOWL
Persia, 10th century
of reddish earthenware, with straight sides sharply
carinated and rounded foot ring, decorated with
white slip on a dark chocolate brown ground with
part of an Arabic inscription, and a four-leaf motif
at the centre
20.5cm; 8in diameter

For fragments of such bowls found at Nishapur in The
Metropolitan Museum of Art excavations, see Wilkinson,
Nishapur, p.177, nos.62-47. The type is quite rare as the
calligraphic pieces are more usually decorated in black
on white, or in green on brown. For a bowl of this type in
the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, see Feiberlivi,
World Ceramics, p.74, Figure 208.

£1,000-1,200
46. **AN UNGLAZED POTTERY MOULD**  
Persia, possibly Nishapur, 12th century  
of unglazed reddish earthenware, finely moulded  
with an inscription between bands of chain pattern,  
with birds, a harpy and spiralling leaves in the  
background  
12.6cm, 5in diameter  
The inscription consists of an Arabic saying: 'The taste of  
democracy is better at first, but at the end it is sweeter than  
honey. It was chosen' by Ahmad ibn al-Khulthu al-  
samsamqandi (the baker from Samarkand). Similar texts  
are found on Nishapur wares.  

Pottery moulds have been found in many places in Persia  
and Central Asia, but master-moulds are extremely rare;  
for a fragmentary master-mould excavated at Nishapur,  
see Wilkinson, Ethn., pp.255-256; for a mould from the  
same site, see also Wilkinson, Nishapur, p.355, nos. 137-  
143.  
A very similar mould said to be from Nishapur is in the  
Mahboubian Collection, see Mahboubian, nos.294. The  
mould is slightly larger, but the general design is very  
similar and the braded hand above and below the  
inscription are identical.

47. **A SMALL TERRACOTTA SEATED FIGURE**  
Persia, 12th/13th century  
with shoulder-length hair, wearing a scroll-  
decorated tri-lobed crown, with traces of plaster  
and polychrome  
14.4cm, 5½in, perspect stand  
£200-1,200  
The purpose of these moulds is not clear; the original  
most surely have been cast in plaster or some similar  
more durable substance, from which an impression would  
have then been taken giving a negative mould, into which  
could then be impressed clay to form vessels for glazing  
and firing. The mould appears to have been just such an  
impression, but fired unglazed for its own sake.  
For sections of fired earthenware negative moulds, see  
Birks/Birks, pp.259-260, nos.153, 154; and for a turquoise-  
glazed bowl made from just such a mould, see ibid., p.122,  
nos.159, and also illustrated in colour on the cover of the  
catalogue: again, it has the same kind of braded hand at  
the bottom.  
£1,000-1,200

48. **EARLY POTTERY - II**  
Various Properties  
48. **A POTTERY JUG**  
Persia, 12th/13th century  
of globular form standing on a low everted foot, the  
single handle with protruding thumb-rest and tall  
slightly flaring neck, the body decorated with open  
latticework, covered in a dark brown glaze  
26cm, 10½in  
£1,000-1,200  

49. **A TURQUOISE-GLAZED POTTERY EWER**  
Persia, 12th/13th century  
the compressed globular body with flaring  
cylindrical neck terminating in the form of an ibex  
head with scrolling horns  
26cm, 10½in  
£1,200-1,500  

50. **A TURQUOISE-GLAZED POTTERY JUG**  
Bamiyan, early 13th century  
the pear-shaped body moulded with two rows of  
interlocking convex panels, decorated with  
impressed palmettes and lobed leaves, the concave  
neck with a complex braided band, the double  
strap handle with a raised stud on the top  
18cm, 7in.  
The stud on the handle would suggest a metal prototype.  
£2,000-3,000  

51. **A TURQUOISE GLAZED HORSE**  
Persia, 15th-16th century  
the horse with a stylised mane and a series of pellets  
on its head, neck and body representing trappings  
20.5cm, 8in height  
£1,000-1,200
52
A NISHAPUR POTTERY BOWL
Persia, 9th/10th century
decorated on a cream slip with two green and two saffron leaf shapes flanked by brown wings with sgraffito spirals, divided by four circle-dot motifs, a fifth in the well
24cm, 9⅝in diameter
£2,000-2,500

53
A KASHAN LUSTRE FIGURAL BOWL
Persia, 16th century
with a horse and rider in the well and six seated figures flanked by trecs around the sides, with a kufic frieze below the rim and foliate sprigs around the exterior
19½ cm, 7⅜in diameter
£2,000-3,000

54
A POTTERY BOWL
Persia, 16th/17th century
of shallow form with sloping rim, decorated with eight radiating bands in cobalt blue and black against an ivory ground with rows of small foliate sprigs, four with scrolling waterweed alternating with four filled with curvilinear inscription incised through black slip, further waterweed plants on the exterior
23.7cm, 9¼in diameter

The inscriptions consist of verses in Persian.
Provenance: Formerly sold in these rooms, 14th October 1980. Lot 181.
A similar dish was sold in these rooms, 25th April 1990. Lot 85.
£1,500-2,000

55
A LARGE LUSTRE DISH
Persia, 15th century
divided into eight triangular wedges, four painted in saffron amidst foliage on a cobalt ground, alternating with four depicting spiralling flowers, two on a cream ground and two on turquoise, curvilinear inscriptions on the flat rim, the exterior cobalt
33.2cm, 13¼in diameter

The inscriptions including verses in Persian and signed twice: 'The work of Emirh (&) Fandi (the Baker).'
£3,000-4,000

56
A KASHAN POTTERY BOWL
Persia, probably 15th century
of shallow form on a low foot, painted with black scrolls and a calligraphic border under a turquoise glaze, the exterior with ropework border and six waterweed plants on the reverse
20cm, 7⅛in diameter

The inscriptions consist of the repetition of the word at-taw 'Glory'.
£1,800-2,000

57
A POTTERY BOWL
Persia, 12th/13th century
decorated in cobalt blue outline and groups of black dots and irregular panels, against an ivory ground, with a quadrifoil flower at the centre, surrounded by four fig-shaped medallions alternating with knotted scrolls, the rim and petals around the exterior painted black
18.4cm, 7¼in diameter
£1,200-1,500

58
A NISHAPUR POTTERY DISH
Persia, 9th/10th century
painted in brown, ochre and moss green against a cream ground, with a large stylised peacock and medallions with linear pendants opposite
38cm, 15⅜in diameter
£10,000-12,000

59
A SULTANABAD POTTERY BOWL
Persia, 12th/13th century
the convex sides with overhanging rim decorated with beading in eflue, painted in dark greenish-brown on a cream ground, with two seated figures alternating with two phoenix, surrounded by foliage with four speckled blue and black fish at the centre, blue-splashed stripes and dots around the exterior
24.2cm, 9⅝in diameter

(See illustration on page 29)
£4,000-5,000

60
A KASHAN LUSTRE CALLIGRAPHIC TILE
Persia, 15th century
moulded with part of a Persian inscription in cobalt, against a brown lustre and turquoise ground of scrolls and arabesques, a frieze with two phoenixes above
33.5 by 32cm, 13¼ by 12¾in
£3,500-4,000

61
A NISHAPUR POTTERY BOWL
Persia, 9th/10th century
with rounded sides, narrow flattened foot rim, and olive green and brown lustre decoration on a crackled cream ground, with a symmetrical design of pointed oval panels and peacock eye motifs and a single leafy spray at the centre in a diamond, the rim with a segmental band, the outside with diagonal splashes
17.5cm, 7in diameter

A sturdy provincial example of early lustreware. The segmental patroon on the rim and the general colour scheme strongly suggests the influence of Chinese painted earthenware from Changsha, of the Tang dynasty.
£800-1,200