AN ABBASID BLUE-AND-WHITE BOWL
Iraq, 9th-10th century

with everted rim and narrow foot ring, of off-white ware with an opalescent tin glaze with blue decoration, a rosette within a six-pointed star and palmettes at the points
21.2cm; 8¾in 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, EDP, Plates 8-9, Gruyé, Kato, pp.34-35, discusses the type at length and gives a list of recorded pieces in note 2.

£2,500-2,700

(See illustration on page 17)

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
21.5cm; 8½in diameter

For this type see Wilkinson, Nishapur, Colour Plate 8, pp.103, 205, 206

£1,800-2,000

(See illustration on page 17)

AN AMOL YELLOW-GROUND BOWL
Persia, 11th-12th century

do not know where this bowl was made, but it has a creamcoloured slip and green decoration, incised under the glaze with a leafy scroll at the rim between concentric rings
18.2cm; 7¼in diameter

The piece belongs to a rare type predating the more elaborate incised ware with green and manganese glaze splashes of the 13th century generally attributed to the Amol district; for this type, see Lane, EDP, Plates 32A, 33A.

£1,000-1,200

(See illustration on page 17)

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; 8¾in diameter

£2,500-2,700

(See illustration on page 17)

Kashan

Calligraphy and the Decorative Arts of Islam, Bieb & Sons Ltd., London, 1976, pp.60-70, no.56, where the inscription was tentatively interpreted as reading base ‘C’He’ (‘God’).

For similar pieces found at Nishapur, see Wilkinson, Nishapur, pp.220f. For the type in general, see Lane, EDP, pp.26f.

£1,000-1,200

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 Wason, and also the detailed discussion in his article, see Wason, Rayy and Kashan, pp.1-18, Plates 1-6. 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 Garorey, Surveys, pp.40, 41, Figures 183, 194, Plate 9a.

£1,000-1,200

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.42-47. 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 Felhővári, World Ceramics, p.74, Figure 208.

£1,000-1,200
36 A TIMURID BLUE-AND-WHITE BOWL
Persia, 15th century
of buff-coloured ware, with rounded sides, decorated in underglaze cobalt blue, inside with a floral band at the rim and a spray of flowers at the centre, the outside plain
21.6 cm; 8½ in diameter
The fine outline of the petals of the lotus-like flowers at the centre is a typically Yuan feature; see Pope, Arabid, Plates 7, 8. For related blue-and-white examples, see Grove, Groeningen 1987, Figs 25, 36; and Currie, Tiensu, Figs. 17, 18, 24.
£1,200-1,500

37 A TIMURID BLUE-AND-BLACK BOWL
Persia, late 14th/early 15th century
the deep bowl of buff-coloured ware with rounded sides and heavy unglazed square-cut foot ring, decorated in underglaze cobalt blue and black, the inside with a wide diaper band at the rim and at the centre a chrysanthemum-like flower with elongated petals within an eight-pointed design of interlocking leaves and panels, the outside with a floral border and a wreath of flowers below
22 cm; 8½ in diameter
This type of pottery is quite rare and only a very few pieces have been recorded in the literature; see Grove, Krit, p.297, no.258; and Watson, Krit, pp.171, 173, nos.326, 38; also James Allan, Islamic Ceramics, no.30, for a bowl in the Ashmolean Museum. Of the small number of similar bowls in the Iran Baikan Museum, Tehran, two have been published by Bagherzadeh, Orientale Ceramiche, nos.160, 161.
Many features link this bowl to Yuan blue-and-white, for instance the fine cross-hatching, the diaper border, the floral wreath, and the outer rim pattern divided by alternating arcs (see Pope, Arabid, Plate 7, for its prototype). But most telling of all is the short, square-cut foot ring; see Pope, ibid, Plate 24.
£500-1,700

38 A BLUE-AND-BLACK POTTERY
Persia, circa 1450
of buff-coloured ware with slightly flaring rim and square-cut heavy unglazed foot ring, decorated in underglaze blue and black, the inside with a diaper band at the rim and a series of interlocking calligraphic panels radiating from an eight-pointed star, the outside with panels filled with crude squiggles
24 cm; 9½ in diameter
For a very similar piece in the Ashmolean Museum, see Allan, Ballinger, no.525, attributed to northern Persia and the fourteenth century. The shape, foot ring, evoluted rim and squiggly lotus-palns on the outside are all typical Yuan features; see Pope, Arabid, Plate 24.
£1,200-1,500

39 A TIMURID BLUE-AND-WHITE BOWL
Persia or Central Asia, 15th century
with slightly flaring rim, decorated in underglaze cobalt blue, inside at the rim a classic scroll band, and at the centre a chrysanthemum reserved with six spiralling leaves on a blue ground, the outside with a wreathe of flowers and flame-like leaves reserved on a blue ground
24 cm; 9½ in diameter
An almost identical bowl is in the Pour Collection, London. Two related bowls with bold floral designs and flame-like leaves are illustrated in Groeneveldt, Figures 58-60, in The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Islamic Museum in Berlin respectively. The central motif with leaves spiralling outwards is found in 15th-16th century early Iznik blue-and-white pottery, of which a number of examples are in the study collection of the Benaki Museum in Athens. See also Ataş & Raby, Plate 43c, illustrating a sherd of this type actually found at Iznik.
£1,200-1,500

40 A TIMURID KUBACHI PLATE
Persia, 15th century (r)
with a sloping flat rim, decorated in grey and black under a turquoise glaze, the foot ring and unglazed base heavily discoloured and blackened, the rim painted with leaves on an undulating stem, and in the centroto radiating leaves, with a flaming pearl (r) at the centre surrounded by sprays of flowers and leaves, and spiral motifs under the rim
33 cm; 13 in diameter
For the type, attributed to the Timurid period, see Grove, Groeningen 1987, Figures 54, 55; the type has been variously attributed in the literature from the 13th to the 17th centuries; Felce, Bahia, no.189, 19th century; eden, Persian and Mughal Art, no.145, Tehran region, late 14th or early 16th century; and Lane, LP, Plate 52B, about 1606; Dusseldorf, p.258, nos.375, 389, beginning 17th century.
£1,500-2,000
41 THREE LARGE SAFAVID BLUE-AND-WHITE Dishes
Persia, 17th century
decorated in shades of underglaze blue, the first with a dragon at the centre, with trees on islets and cloud-scrolls in the cavetto; the second with an elaborate vase of flowers at the centre with scolloped floral panels and tassels in the cavetto, and three tassels marks on the base; the third with two dragons against a leafy background with two rings of cartouches, and three tassel marks on the base
47, 49.8, 53cm; 17, 19", 21½in diameter (3)
The designs of all three dishes are based on Chinese late Ming/Wanli models. See Lane, LIP, pp.115-117 for a variety of Persian tassel marks.
(See illustration on previous page)
£2,500-3,000

42 A POTTERY BOWL
Persia, probably Kashan, first half 14th century
with curved sides and high foot ring, decorated in underglaze cobalt blue, turquoise and black, the inside with radial panels of arabesques, dots and hatching, the outside with dotted petal panels 21cm; 8¼in diameter
An almost identical bowl of this type is in the Orongo Museum, Dunedin, New Zealand; it is illustrated by Lane, LIP
£2,500-3,000

43 A 'LAJVARINA' BOWL
Persia, late 13th-early 14th century
with curving sides and high foot ring, decorated in underglaze blue with additional red, brown and white enameles and gold leaf, with a design of radiating scolloped panels separated by diamonds, the outside with petal panels 21cm; 8¼in diameter
For a very similar piece of this excessively rare type with overglaze painted decoration on a white ground (laajvarina wares are generally glazed a deep cobalt blue, as the name would indicate), see All, Ceramics, no. 75, and Welch, Vol. IV, no. P72, colour illustration, from the Collection of Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan.
£3,500-4,000

44 A GREEN-GLAZED POTTERY BOWL
Eastern Persia, 10th/11th century
of reddish earthenware with curved sides and flaring foot ring; with a green glaze over a cream slip, carved and incised with an eight-pointed scolloped design at the centre
22.5cm; 8½in diameter
The design at the centre recalls the 'baluchin' patterns, frequently encountered on metalwork of the Seljuk period which have been interpreted as deriving from the classical concept of the Baldachin or Dome of Heaven; see Etinghausen, Wade, Plate I, Figure 2, p.355, Figure 8.
£1,000-1,200

45 AN Imitation Celadon Dish and Two Bowls
Persia, late 14th century
the dish with flat sloping rim and moulded cavetto, the foot ring and base unglazed; one bowl with curved sides moulded on the outside with petal panels and two fish (7) at the centre; the second bowl with inverted rim, on the outside of which is carved an Arabic inscription, with radiating petal panels below
33.3, 16.2, 14.7cm; 13", 6", 5½in diameter (3)
For a similar type of bowl combining the fish design and calligraphy on the inverted rim, see Fehervari, Berlin, no. 163.
Exhibited:
Third item: Calligraphy and the Decorative Arts of Islam, Blumenthal & Sons, London, 1976, p.74, no.60, where the inscription on the rim was partly interpreted as: 'Allah in your ascension...in your savour...on your trumpet...in your salam or eternal duration, exultation, wealth and felicity and prosperity and safety.'
For other almost identical pieces, see Lane, LIP, Plate 86, and Dusseldorf, p.119, no.254 (Bermou Museum)
£1,500-2,000
AN UNGLAZED POTTERY MOULD

Persia, possibly Nishapur, 12th century
of unglazed reddish earthware, finely moulded
with an inscription between bands of chain pattern,
with birds, a harpy and spiralling leaves in the
background.
12.6cm; 5 1/2" diameter

The inscription consists of an Arabic saying: ‘The taste of
clemency is bitter at first, but at the end it is sweeter than
borne. It was chosen (7) by Ahmad ibn al-Khallal al-
samurayadi 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, Kāšī, pp.235-240; for a mould from the
same site, see also Wilkinson, Nishapur, p.335, nos. 137-
143.

A very similar mould said to be from Nishapur is in the
Majboubian Collection, see Majboubian, no.204. The
mould is slightly larger, but the general design is very
similar and the biaised bands above and below the
inscription are identical.

The purpose of these moulds is not clear; the original
must surely have been carved in plaster or some similar
more durable substance, from which an impression would
have been taken giving a negative mould, into which
could 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
Davies, pp.120-121, nos.152, 153; and for a turquoise-
glazed bowl made from just such a mould, see ibid., p.122.
no.150, and also illustrated in colour on the cover of the
catalogue; again, it has the same kind of biaised band at
the bottom.

£1,000-1,200

A SMALL TERRACOTTA SEATED FIGURE
Persia, 12th/13th century
with shoulder-length hair, wearing a scroll-
decorated tri-loved crown, with traces of plaster
and polychrome
14.4cm, 5 1/2in, peripex stand

£800-1,200

EARLY POTTERY – II

Various Properties

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
21cm, 8 1/4in

£1,000-1,200

A TURQUOISE-GLAZED POTTERY JUG
Bamyan, 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

A TURQUOISE-GLAZED HORSER
Persia, 13th-14th 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
safron leaf shapes flanked by brown wings with
sgraffito spirals, divided by four circle-dotted motifs, a
fifth in the well
24cm, 9½in diameter

£2,000-2,500

53
A KASHAN LUSTRE FIGURAL BOWL
Persia, 13th century
with a horse and rider in the well and six seated
figures flanked by trees around the sides, with a
kobe frieze below the rim and foliate sprigs around
the exterior
19.5cm, 7½in diameter

£2,000-3,000

54
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 quatrefoil flower at the centre, sur-
rounded by four fig-shaped medallions alternating
with knotted scrolls, the rim and petals around the
top painted black
15.6cm, 6¼in diameter

£1,200-1,500

55
A POTTERY BOWL
Persia, 12th/13th century
decorated with alternating turquoise and black
radiating bands on an ivory ground, the latter each
with an incised cursive inscription flanked by
scrolling or spot-filled spandrels, the exterior
painted with pseudo-calligraphy and foliage
20.3cm, 8in diameter

£1,200-1,500

56
A KASHAN POTTERY BOWL
Persia, probably 13th 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
25cm, 9½in diameter

The inscriptions consist of the repetition of the word as'iz
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 quatrefoil flower at the centre, sur-
rounded by four fig-shaped medallions alternating
with knotted scrolls, the rim and petals around the
top painted black
15.6cm, 6¼in diameter

£1,200-1,500

58
A LARGE LUSTRE DISH
Persia, 13th 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,
cursive inscriptions on the flat rim, the exterior
cobalt
38.2cm, 15in diameter

The inscriptions including verses in Persian and signed
twice: "The work of Ibrahim Ibn al-Khubbaz (the
Baker)."

£6,000-7,000

59
A NISHAPUR POTTERY DISH
Persia, 9th/10th century
painted in browns, ochre and moss green against a
cream ground, with a large stylised peacock and
medallions with linear potlatchs opposite
38cm, 15in diameter

£10,000-12,000

60
A SULTANABAD POTTERY BOWL
Persia, 12th/13th century
the convex sides with overhanging rim decorated
with beading in relief, painted in dark greenish-
brown on a cream ground, with two seated figures
alternating with two phoenixes, surrounded by foliage
with four speckled blue and black fish at the centre,
blue-splashed stripes and dots around the exterior
24.5cm, 9½in diameter

(See illustration on page 29)

£4,000-5,000

61
A NISHAPUR POTTERY BOWL
Persia, 9th/10th century
slip painted in mustard and brown on a cream
ground, with two birds facing in opposite directions
divided by a line of dark brown foliated kufic, also
with irregular panels filled with circle-dotted
medallions
29.8cm, 11½in diameter

The inscription repeats several deciphered letters

£3,500-4,000

(See illustration on page 29)

62
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
turquoise panels above
33.5 by 32cm, 13½ by 12½in

£3,500-4,000

63
A LUSTRE BOWL
Eastern Persia / Afghanistan, 9th-10th century
with rounded sides, narrow flattened foot rim, and
olive green and brown lustre decoration on a
cream ground, with a symmetrical design of
painted oval panels and peacock's-eye motifs and
a single leafy sprig at the centre in a diamond, the
rim with a segmental band, the outside with
diagonal splashes
17.8cm, 7in diameter

A sturdy provincial example of early lustreware. The
segmental pattern on the rim and the general color
scheme strongly suggests the influence of Chinese
painted earthenware from Changsha, of the Tang
dynasty.

£800-1,200
A RAQQA JUG
Syria, 12th-13th century
with a globular body, concave cylindrical neck and pedestal foot, with single strap handle, decorated in underglaze blue and lustrous reddish-brown, the body with blue roundels and interlacing arabesque lozenge leaves with a background of spirals, the neck with large water-lily like leaves on thin interlacing stems, with broad blue bands above and below and a band of pseudo-arabic on the shoulder
19.5cm; 7 1/2in height

The jug is in exceptionally fine condition
£10,000-15,000

A 'MINAI' POTTERY BOWL
Persia, 13th century
depicting a figure in a turquoise robe riding a pale cobalt camel, a diminutive dark-faced figure in front, a tree behind, two stylised floral sprigs above and one below, on a cream ground, the rim with cobalt blue indistinctons on cream ground above a single red line
17.5cm; 6 1/2in diameter
£1,500-2,000

65