Inv. no. 25/1968

EARTHENWARE BOWL, COVERED WITH A WHITE SLIP AND PAINTED IN BLACK, YELLOW, AND GREEN UNDER A TRANSPARENT GLAZE

EASTERN IRAN, NISHAPUR; 10TH CENTURY

H: 8.5; DIAM: 22 CM

This colorful bowl belongs to a special group of ceramics that was produced at the same time as slip-painted types that were far simpler with regard to both color and motif. A horseman in chain mail lifting a sphere high in his right hand is riding off with something that could be viewed as a gigantic hunting falcon. He is surrounded by a dense forest of naturalistic, abstract, and non-figurative elements.

A great deal of energy has been expended on debating whether these bowls hark back to pre-Islamic traditions or were made for a specific social or ethnic group in Nishapur – but we still know nothing.

Published in:

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