



Inv. no. 2/1965

EARTHENWARE BOWL, COVERED BY A WHITE SLIP WITH INCISED ORNAMENTATION AND DECORATED WITH SPLASHES OF COLOR IN A TRANSPARENT GLAZE

EASTERN IRAN OR CENTRAL ASIA; 10TH CENTURY

H: 7.5; DIAM: 25.5 CM

The decoration on this bowl, like so much Samanid art, was inspired by decoration from Abbasid Iraq, and Iraqi potters, in turn, might have been inspired by Chinese models, i.e. Tang splashed ware.

The green, yellow, and brownish splashes run out into the transparent glaze and create a seemingly random yet planned pattern. The underlying incised decoration, in the russet color of the clay against the white slip, is purely Islamic. This sgraffito technique was later to become a popular form of decoration, which was exported to Europe.

Published in:  
Kjeld von Folsach: Islamic art. The David Collection, Copenhagen

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Kjeld von Folsach: Art from the World of Islam in The David  
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Sheila S. Blair and Jonathan M. Bloom (ed.): *Cosmophilia. Islamic  
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John A. Burrison: *Global clay: themes in world ceramic traditions*,  
Bloomington 2017, fig. 3.15, pp. 80 and 82;