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EARTHENWARE BOWL WITH HANDLES, PAINTED WITH A GREEN AND MANGANESE GLAZE

SPAIN; 12TH CENTURY

H: 8.1; DIAM WITHOUT HANDLE: 17 CM

GIFT OF HØJESTERETSSAGFØRER C. L. DAVIDS LEGAT FOR SLÆGT OG VENNER

The shape and rather coarse decoration, displaying areas with and without green glaze, are typical of pottery from 12th-century Muslim Spain. Technically, this is a preliminary stage of *cuerda seca*, in which glazed areas are kept separate by contouring them with a greasy substance. When the piece is fired, the substance burns down into a black “dry cord” that can be scraped away, though it often leaves a dark trace.

On this bowl, the dark manganese color served this purpose. It was also used as an independent decorative element in the uppermost arched band, where the vertical dark strokes comprise a kind of pseudo-calligraphy.

Published in:

Sotheby's, London, 12/10-2005, lot 55;

Farzaneh Pirouz-Moussavi: *Cerámica entre dos mares: De Bagdad a la talavera de Puebla = Clay between two seas: from Baghdad to the talavera of Puebla*, Mexico 2017, s. 69;

