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EARTHENWARE BOWL, COVERED WITH A WHITE SLIP AND PAINTED IN A REDDISH-BROWN SLIP UNDER A PALE-GREENISH, TRANSPARENT GLAZE, IN PLACES WITH YELLOW

EASTERN IRAN OR CENTRAL ASIA; 10TH CENTURY

H: 6; DIAM: 21.7 CM

The inside of the bowl is covered with a highly stylized fish surrounded by ornamental sections. With its palette of two shades of brown, the bowl imitates polychrome Abbasid lustreware.

The peacock-eye pattern in the yellow ornamental sections and the heart-shaped design are types of decoration that were adopted from Iraqi ceramics.

Other bowls in a related technique and with related motifs have been excavated in Nishapur in a layer that can be dated to the 10th century, but it is uncertain where the bowls were made.

Published in:  
Bonhams, London, 13/10-1999, lot 129;  
Kjeld von Folsach: *Art from the World of Islam in The David  
Collection*, Copenhagen 2001, cat.no. 119;