



Inv. no. Isl 64

FRITWARE BOWL, PAINTED IN BLUE IN, AND IN LUSTRE OVER, AN OPAQUE, WHITE GLAZE

IRAN, KASHAN; BEGINNING OF 13TH CENTURY

H: 8; DIAM: 15.3 CM

This elegant and very well-preserved bowl belongs to a group that after World War II was found buried in large, unglazed jars in Gorgan, east of the Caspian Sea. The jars were undoubtedly a merchant's hoard hidden away in advance of the Mongols' destructive attack in 1220.

An inscription on a bowl from the group that is found today in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London shows that the pottery was not made locally. It carries the potter's signature: "Muhammad from Nishapur, living in Kashan." The inscriptions on these two bowls are Persian love poems that might have had a mystical, religious significance.

Published in:

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