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SMALL EARTHENWARE BOWL, PAINTED IN LUSTRE OVER AN OPAQUE, WHITE GLAZE

IRAQ; 10TH CENTURY

H: 5; L: 13.5 CM

This small earthenware bowl painted in lustre has a quatrefoil shape that is atypical of the period's Islamic art. It does, in contrast, reflect Chinese influence during the Tang period (618-906), when silver bowls of this shape were made as well as cheaper variants in the era's porcelain-like stoneware.

Fragments of Chinese stoneware bowls of this kind have been excavated in the Abbasid capital of Samarra. Chinese imports provided the technical and in some cases also aesthetic ideals that local potters tried to imitate in different ways.

Like its Chinese models, this bowl is also stamped on the base. The Arabic text reads "made by ibn Hani."

Published in:
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