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BASKET WITH VESSELS MADE OF WOOD, GLASS, IVORY, AND LACQUER

AFGHANISTAN; C. 1200

BASKET: H: 14; DIAM: C. 21 CM

From early times, the apothecary's expertise and practice were considered an independent profession in the Islamic world. Although pharmacology and medicine were related fields, they were not the same, and a *tabib* (doctor) was trained differently from a *saydali* (apothecary). In large cities, the apothecary's activities were under the control of the authorities, and he needed to meet special standards in order to practice his profession.

This basket and its 19 little vessels – ten of wood, seven of glass, one of ivory and one of lacquer – probably served a kind of home medicine chest. There are still traces of powders and crushed, dried leaves in some of the vessels, but it has not been possible to actually identify their contents.

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Elizabeth A. Lambourn: *Abraham's luggage: a social life of things in the medieval Indian Ocean world*, Cambridge 2018, fig. 8, p. 223;

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Barry Knight: "The heart case of Abbot Roger de Norton from St. Albans Abbey: an Islamic object in a medieval English context" in *Muqarnas*, 36, 2019, pp. 224-226, fig.7;

