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EARTHENWARE DISH, DECORATED WITH GREEN AND MANGANESE
SPAIN, CORDOBA; 10TH CENTURY

H: 2.6; DIAM: 21.9 CM

The finest pottery from the Spanish Umayyad Caliphate is painted in copper green and manganese on a white slip under a transparent glaze.

The motifs most often consist of green palmettes or *Kufi* inscriptions contoured in manganese. The most common inscription is the one found here: *al-mulk*, for “royal power [is God’s].” It is unusual that the dish is also decorated on the back, with two confronted lions around something that resembles a lamp.

Technically, early Spanish-Muslim pottery reflects an eastern tradition, but its decoration bears the greatest similarities to contemporary pieces from North Africa.

Published in:

Éric Delpont (ed.): *Les Andalousies de Damas à Cordoue*, Institut du monde arabe, Paris 2000, cat.no. 119;

Kjeld von Folsach: *Art from the World of Islam in The David Collection*, Copenhagen 2001, cat.no. 111;

Jonathan Bloom and Sheila Blair (eds.): *And diverse are their hues: color in Islamic art and culture*, New Haven 2011, p. 83, fig. 58;

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, p. 68;