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EARTHENWARE ALBARELLO, PAINTED IN BLUE IN, AND WITH TWO TONES OF LUSTRE OVER, AN OPAQUE, WHITE GLAZE

MANISES, SPAIN; 1ST HALF OF 15TH CENTURY

H: 29.5 CM

Both faience and the lustre technique reached Muslim Spain from Iraq by way of Egypt. In the middle of the 13th century, high-quality lustreware was made in Malaga, from which it spread with Muslim craftsmen to Christian Spain. This “Spanish-Moorish” pottery was exported e.g. to Italy, where it was called majolica or faience, after the island Mallorca and the town of Faenza.

A jar with concave sides is called an albarello, probably from the Spanish-Arabic word *al-barrada* – a jug. The type was most often used in pharmacies, since the shape made it easy to grasp the jars even when they stood in lines.

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Hotel des Ventes de Lyon, 12/6-1990, lot 3;  
Kjeld von Folsach, Torben Lundbæk and Peder Mortensen (eds.):  
*Sultan, Shah and Great Mughal: the history and culture of the Islamic world*, The National Museum, Copenhagen 1996, cat.no. 200;  
Kjeld von Folsach: *Art from the World of Islam in The David Collection*, Copenhagen 2001, cat.no. 112;  
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