

Timurid and Safavid Objects, 15th–17th Century

Catalogue Varia 2



Cat. No. V2.1

HNM 03.16.86, see Noelle-Karimi Fig. 7

Basin with engraved decoration

Iran (?), 17th CE

Copper alloy, tinned; sheet metal, raised, hammered; engraved

Size (cm): h. 10; d. (rim) 33

Basin with slightly conical wall, broad flat rim and slightly rounded base.

The engraved decoration is composed of a large central field with a radiating pattern surrounded by a broad frieze. The field shows a cross-shaped composition of four cloud bands and scrolls placed against hatched background. This composition is framed by a lotus border. The decoration of the rim consists of an outer frieze with an interlace and an inner band containing cartouches and quatrefoil medallions, filled with flowers and scrollwork.

Cat. No. V2.2

HNM 87.011, see Noelle-Karimi Fig. 6

Bowl, Afghanistan (?), 17th–18th CE

Copper, tinned; cast, hammered; engraved

Size (cm): h. 13.7; d. 25.5

Deep bowl on low, everted footring; curved, everted rim.

Engraved decoration outside: Four polylobed medallions with central split leaf, surrounded by palmettes and split palmettes; background hatched. A four-petalled rosette is placed between the medallions. The rim is framed by an inscription band (A) naming the twelve Imams.

A: 'Alī Murtaqā al-Hasan wa al-Husain Zayn al-Ābidīn Muhammad Bāqir Ča'far Ṣādiq Mūsā Kāzīm Imām Rīdā Muḥammad Taqī 'Alī al-[...] Hasan al-[...] al-Mahdī al-Hādī



Cat. No. V2.1



Cat. No. V2.2



Cat. No. V2.3

HNM 04.01.86, see Noelle-Karimi Fig. 8

Inscribed cauldron

Khorasan, dated 987/1579

Copper alloy, tinned; sheet metal; hammered; engraved

Size (cm): h. 31; d. 39, d. (rim) 28

Large cauldron with globular body, sloping shoulder, short cylindrical neck and flaring rim; flat base. Originally with two horizontal handles on opposite sides; now removed, holes covered with sheets of metal; composed of two parts. Engraved decoration on the upper half of the body and on the neck shows vertically placed series of irregularly shaped medallions with symmetrical compositions of split leaves against a hatched background. On the shoulder nine cartouches with inscriptions in a cursive ductus (see below) alternate with poly-lobed medallions. The neck shows horizontally aligned palmettes with trefoil tip. Palmettes with trefoil tips are integrated into the first row of palmettes. The inscription on the shoulder contains a

poem in Persian, one cartouche provides the name of the owner, *Muhammad Husayn ibn Sulṭān Husayn Harawī*.

The inscription runs in nine cartouches around the shoulder of the cauldron. It shows a slightly compressed Nasta'liq script which is not always clear on the hatched ground. The scholar and calligrapher Dr Shams Anwari has imitated the script in an expanded form for a better understanding. He has significantly improved our reading of the Persian poem so that he could identify the metrum as *Ramal* for the first three verses and *Hazaj* for the last verse. 'Raw' and 'ripe' or 'mature' in Persian are expressed by 'uncooked' and 'cooked'. The rather crude symbolic language alludes to erotic and popular Sufi subjects. It is not rare that the functional object is related to in inscriptions or quoted as talking to the owner. In spite of the date 1579 (987) in the Safavid period, the owner, the son of a person with the honorary title 'Sultan', is not identified.

Translation
(C.-P. Haase; S. Anwari)

As long as the fire of your love is boiling in my heart,

Each breath means screaming up like a boiling kettle.

When my heart reaches the boiling point, I foam fiercely,

As from the mouth of the kettle verily steam erupts at the boiling point.

Like a foam-skimmer I moan through the pores,

When I kiss the kettle of the mouth and vanish.

From the raw the kettle of envy brings forth steam,

As the raw one screams and the matured is silent.

Its owner is Muhammad Husayn ibn Sultan Husayn from Herat, 987

نادلم را شر عشق تو می آرد بجوش
بهر نفس مانند دیگر جوش نمایم ذخر و
بس که می چو شد دلم آخه زکف دارم
زروهان دیگر آری کف براید و فوج
رخنه ها کرد و جوف نیز مرکف از رو راه
گر کف دیگر دهنرا بجشم دهم گرد محو
رخامي میرند دیگر حست دجوش
که خام او ز دارد بخشن خاموش
صاحب محمد حسین ابن سلطان هیں هر دو



Cat. No. V2.4a + b

HNM 03.48.86i+j
Two fragments of a heptagonal tile

Khorasan, 17th CE

Earthenware (reddish); moulded
Decoration: glaze painting (blue, yellow,
green, turquoise); black outlines

Size (cm): i: h. 2.2; w. 17; l. 19.8; j: h. 2.2;
l. 8.7; i + j: d. 20



Fragment of an unfinished tile. One colour, probably white, is still missing. Black outlines of compositional sketch are still visible on the surface. The decoration shows a composite flower against cobalt blue background. Two large split palmettes in yellow form the contour. A second decorative layer is positioned in the background behind the composite flower, consisting of turquoise scrolls, set with rosette flowers.

Cat. No. V2.5

HNM 03.48.86
Fragment of an architectural decoration
Khorasan, 15th-17th CE

Earthenware (orange-red); moulded
Decoration o/s: glaze painting (turquoise, cobalt
blue, manganese black, yellow); black outlines

Size (cm): w. 13.5; l. 33



Unfinished part of architectural decoration forming a double profile intended for a spherical surface, such as a column. One end broken, the opposite end showing the original diagonal rim. Painted decoration on the outside, the black areas show fingerprints from the moulding process. Painting remained unfinished, the unglazed parts show preliminary drawing with thin black lines. Decoration follows the shape of the

fragment. The narrow inner frieze is framed by turquoise lines flanking a broader central band of alternating v-shapes in cobalt blue and unglazed. The broad outer frieze shows a sequence of cartouches, flanked above and below by composite flowers. Next to one of the flowers, a quadrangle with Kufic inscription is placed: 'Alī', repeated four times in a svastica-like arrangement, similar to HNM 03.48.86o, cat. no. V2.6.

Cat. No. V2.6

HNM 03.48.86o
Fragment of a tile decoration
Khorasan, 15th-17th CE

Earthenware (orange-red); moulded
Decoration o/s: glaze painting (turquoise,
cobalt blue, manganese black, yellow, green,
white); black outlines

Size (cm): w. 12; l. 30



Fragment of an architectural decoration forming a double profile intended for a column. One end is broken, the other end shows the original diagonal edge. Painted decoration on the outside, the back shows imprints of fingertips from the moulding process. The decoration follows the shape of the object. A narrow inner frieze, framed by turquoise lines, a broader central band of alternating v-shapes in cobalt blue and white. The main frieze shows a two layered pattern. The first layer consists of two wavy scrolls set with rosette flowers forming a sequence of pointed ovals. The second layer shows alternating a cartouche with Kufic inscription (*mulk*), a large composite flower, a quadrangle with Kufic inscription: 'Alī', four times repeated in a svastica-like arrangement, similar to HNM 03.48.86n, cat. no. V2.5, and again a composite flower.

Cat. No. V2.7

HNM 03.37.86f
Fragmented bowl
Khorasan, 15th CE (Timurid)
Earthenware (orange); wheelmade
Treatment i/s & o/s: slip (white); i/s & o/s:
transparent glaze (turquoise)
Decoration i/s: underglaze painted (black)
Size (cm): h. 9.5; d. (rim) 23; d. (base) 9.3

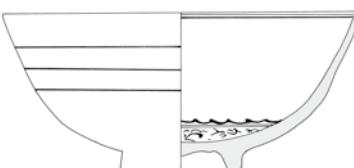


Heavy globular bowl on a footing. Decoration painted in black on a thick white slip, inside covered by a thin, turquoise glaze. Parts of the slip and glaze are flaked off. On the outside, only a narrow strip along the rim was painted and glazed. The interior decoration is composed of a central roundel with radially arranged stalks and leaves. Depicted on the inner wall are three stylised peony blossoms alternating with vertical leafy stalks. The outside shows vertical strokes aligned along the rim. The interior decoration adopts the decorative repertoire of contemporary Chinese blue-and-white porcelain.

Cat. No. V2.8

HNM 01.39.86
Hemispherical bowl with black scrollwork
Khorasan, 15th-16th CE (Timurid)
Earthenware (red); wheelmade
Treatment i/s & o/s: slip (white)
Decoration i/s & o/s: underglaze painted
(black)

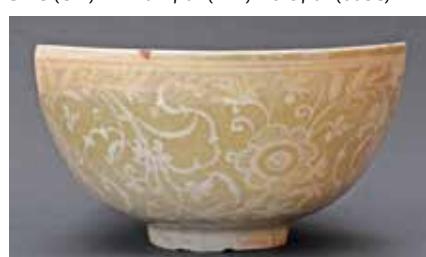
Size (cm): h. 9.3; d. (rim) 21.1; d. (base) 6.9
Deep hemispherical bowl on a low footing, the decoration is painted in black on a white slip. Circular frame in the centre contains a branch with two stylised flowers and two types of leaves. Outside only partly covered by slip; three horizontal black lines. The shape of the leaves and the asymmetrical



composition suggest Chinese models. No traces of glaze are visible, perhaps the piece was unfinished. The fabric is unusual and rather reminiscent of older types. The painting has been retouched previously.

Cat. No. V2.9

HNM 03.37.86h
Fragmented bowl, Khorasan, 17th CE
Fritware (light buff); wheelmade
Treatment i/s & o/s: slip (greyish); transparent
glaze (colourless)
Decoration i/s & o/s: underglaze painted
(white)
Size (cm): h. 10.4; d. (rim) 19.5; d. (base) 7



Deep globular bowl with steep sides and low footring. Painted underglaze decoration inside and outside. Inside the surface is divided into a central roundel and a broad frieze on the wall. In the roundel, a lotus-style composite flower is depicted; in the cavetto alternating four poly-lobed medallions and rosette blossoms growing from a low stalk, flanked by two feathered leaves below and another three leaves above. The medallions are filled with two opposed split leaves framing a central blossom. The outer wall shows a broad frieze with large rosette blossoms entwined with a wavy scroll with feathery and three-petalled leaves. The colour and shape follow Chinese prototypes, particularly celadon stoneware.



Cat. No. V2.8



Cat. No. V2.9