



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Archaeometric investigations of a group of underglaze painted and lustre wares of the Islamic period from the Fustat collections of the Royal Museums of Arts and History (Brussels)

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Abstract

A large number of ceramics found in Fustat entered the collections of the Royal Museums of Arts and History of Brussels at the beginning of the 20th century, as they did in several European and North American museums. Their recent study and publication were the opportunity to investigate them further, using chemical analyses carried out in Lyon laboratory.

Our study focused on a specific type of ware defined by its stylistic and typological features, and by its buff fabric, transparent glaze, and either underglaze black/dark brown or lustre decoration.

This group, generally dated to the 11th and 12th century, is known throughout the Levant and Egypt. Similar wares were found, in fact, in Beirut downtown excavations, in production contexts. Based on chemical analyses and reference data in Lyon's database, our aim was to find out if the Brussels examples belong to this production, or to Fustat's, as was previously thought. In the former case it opens the question of a lustre ware production in Beirut.

Keywords

Fustat, Beirut, underglaze painted ware, lustre ware, chemical analysis

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