

5

Ibid., plates 78 and 79.

6

John Guy, "Vietnamese Ceramics in International Trade," in Stevenson and Guy, eds., *Vietnamese Ceramics*, 50, plate 20.

7

Brown, *The Ceramics of South-east Asia*, 24.

8

Ibid., plates 8c and 8d.

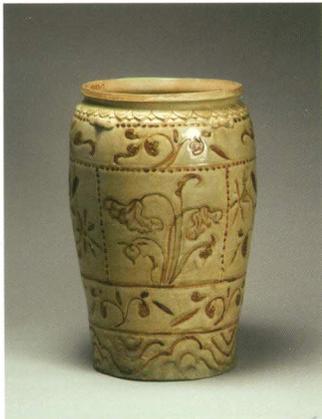


FIG. 1
Example of barrel-shaped jar.

77. LARGE BASIN

Thanh Hoa, Ly-Tran dynasties, 12th–14th century
Stoneware, H: 25.4 cm × D: 43.2 cm
Viet Nam National Fine Arts Museum, 4975 G2-1851

78. UNDERGLAZE BROWN BOWL

Ly-Tran dynasties, 13th century
Stoneware, H: 6.7 cm × D: 13.9 cm
Viet Nam National Fine Arts Museum, 4554-G2 1497

77. Although ash glazes appear under Han influence, it is during the Ly (1009–1225) and Tran (1225–1400) periods that glazed wares became more common. First discovered in Thanh Hoa Province, these jars are often called Thanh Hoa wares, though we now know they were produced at a number of other sites in northern Viet Nam. Although the designs of dark motifs against a creamy ground are often likened to *cizhou* ceramics, the glaze technique differs (see previous entry).

The deep basin is a more unusual shape for the inlaid ivory-colored vessels than the contemporary barrel-shaped jars (fig. 1), though other examples adorned with similar motifs exist.⁵ Like the jars, vegetal designs are the most common motifs, although animals, humans, clouds, birds, and fish also make an appearance. Below small appliquéd florettes, an inlaid scroll alternates with dots. The basins are generally heavily thrown and, like this example, often exhibit a rolled rim.

78. Securely dated excavations in Japan have provided important information about the dating of Vietnamese ceramics. One such item is an underglaze iron black bowl (in fragments) excavated in the living quarters of the Kanzeonji monastery at Dazaifu, Fukuoka Prefecture, Kyushu. The site has been dated to the mid-fourteenth century.⁶ Guangdong wares from the south of China seem to have inspired underglaze iron decoration in Viet Nam. These early underglaze iron wares, which have been found in insular Southeast Asia, were probably the first exports from Viet Nam.⁷

Designs on these wares are limited to a floral and a rather lazy, abstract motif on either the interior or exterior of the bowl. Early bowls with iron-oxide decoration were created in a number of forms, both with a vertical and a sloping cavetto, as well as a taller beaker shape. This particular shape, with its straight wall that curves in slightly just below the rim, dates to the end of the thirteenth century.⁸

