

79. IMPRESSED BOWL

Tran dynasty, 13th–14th century

Stoneware, H: 3.9 cm × D: 14.7 cm

Viet Nam National Fine Arts Museum, 4550-G2-1493

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Peter Lam, "Vietnamese Celadons and Their Relationships to the Wares of Southern China," in Stevenson and Guy, eds., *Vietnamese Ceramics*, 141–42.

Chinese northern green wares (celadons) and *qingbai* molded bowls served as a model for Vietnamese potters, though the white body and firing marks distinguish Vietnamese from Chinese vessels. Vietnamese celadon bowl shapes are varied and include shallow saucers, bowls with deep vertical walls (generally called beakers), conical bowls, and bowls with inverted mouth-rims.

Small, shallow bowls with molded flower patterns and radiating lines were fashioned during the thirteenth to fourteenth centuries in Viet Nam. They had earlier appeared in China at the Xicun kilns in Guangdong, but the decoration on those bowls was not as delicate, possibly because they were incised and carved rather than molded.⁹ The Vietnamese were clearly aware of the southern

Chinese kilns of Guangdong, Fujian, and Guangxi; their active international trade with the Chinese provided inspiration. The refinement of the floral motifs can be seen in this example with its single central multipetaled flower surrounded by smaller flowers and then the lines. The olive-tinged glaze, a characteristic color of Vietnamese celadons, does not cover the foot. The Vietnamese potter was unconcerned by the spur marks left by the kiln supports, and one often finds elegantly formed monochrome and underglaze bowls marked with five pits in the glaze.

