DAVID AARON



Important Minai Fragment

C. 1200 A.D.

Ancient Iran

Pottery

H: 16cm

Ceramic production in Persia burgeoned in the eleventh century, inheriting a tradition of luxury objects rooted in the Islamic world dating back to the ninth century, which had been developed significantly in Fatimid Egypt. The peak of Iranian ceramics in the early thirteenth century might also be explained by the migration of Egyptian ceramicists at the time of the decline of that dynasty, between the late eleventh and early twelfth centuries.

The technical development that allowed for painting under and over the matte glaze contributed greatly to the success of minai – or enamelled – ceramics, where each piece was a precious decorative object. Pieces underwent a complex process of firing, the first time at higher temperatures and a second time at a temperature below 600 degrees, to allow for the fixing of the most fragile pigments, including gold.

Literature:

The Oriental and European Collection of Mr. Alexander Scott of Philadelphia, PA., The Anderson Galleries, New York, 2nd – 4th March 1922, Lot 352.

Christie’s Interiors, New York, 31st August – 1st September 2010, Lot 464.