

A M I R M O H T A S H E M I



Hispano-Moresque Plate

Manises, Spain, Second half of the 15th century

Glazed fritware

22.5cm diameter, 3.5cm deep

Stock no.: A5862

Provenance: French private collection

This small dish is decorated with golden-brown lustre and cobalt blue. Alternating bands of spirals and solid lustre radiate across the rim and cavetto from a heraldic shield. Three clover-like rosettes in cobalt blue are evenly spaced around the rim.

A shield outlined with cobalt blue sits at the centre of the well. The central device, a triple-barred cross and an orb, has been variously identified as the arms of the Datini merchants of Pisa and the Pazzi family of Florence.¹ It also appears to be associated with apothecaries, as several pharmacy jars (albarellos) bear this symbol. Examples can be found in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (accession no. [41.190.226](#)) and the Hispanic Society of America, New York (no. [E598](#)). Anthony Ray identifies a letter 'P' inside an orb and double-barred cross as the symbol for powder.²

A similar, though larger, dish in the British Museum, London (accession no. [1852.0628.1](#)) is dated to c. 1470. Patterned bands radiate from a shield in the well, bearing a lion rampant. Four rosettes are positioned on the rim.

[1] MCM. 'Lusterware Apothecary Jar (albarello)', *The Hispanic Museum & Library*. Retrieved online via <https://hispanicsociety.emuseum.com/objects/3941/lusterware-apothecary-jar-albarello?ctx=418748c8-29ef-4878-b62d-00cb3e9de2e8&idx=7> on 30/10/2024.

[2] Ray, Anthony. *Spanish Pottery 1248-1898, with a Catalogue of the Collection in the Victoria and Albert Museum*. London: V&A Publications, 2000. p. 364.