

[Supplementary material]

The earliest Chinese ceramics in Europe?

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Spain is in Western Europe and at the west end of the Mediterranean. In the year AD 711, Muslim armies crossed over from northern Africa and entered the south of the Iberian Peninsula. By the year AD 720, they had already taken control of most of the territory south of the Pyrenees. A few groups of Christians remained in the north of the Peninsula, and from there they began to move south trying to regain the territory, advancing in several waves. By *c.* AD 1200, the northern half of the Iberian Peninsula was under Christian control, but the struggle would last until AD 1495, when the last area under Muslim control, Granada, finally fell to the Christians (Glick 1995; Kennedy 1996).

All the Chinese vessels described below were found during archaeological excavations of sites dating to the Islamic period. Not all the sherds are stratified, but those which are were found in deposits of Islamic date. Almost all of the vessels were found in castles and palaces, the main living quarters of élite local rulers.

Finds (for all locations see Figure 1)

Porcelain

1. *Alcazaba*, Almería, Spain (Figure 2:1; Figure 3:1).

Bowl. White porcelain from Northern China.

Eighth to ninth centuries.

One base sherd of white porcelain, with moulded floral decoration on the interior surface arranged concentrically around the centre of the bowl. The exterior surface is plain and undecorated, the underside of the base is not glazed.

Unstratified.

2. *Alcazaba*, Almería, Spain (Figure 2:2; Figure 6:2).

Bowl. White porcelain from Northern China.

Late tenth to eleventh centuries.

One rim sherd of white porcelain. The interior surface is undecorated, the exterior has been moulded in the form of lotus petals. A band of gold colour has been painted on the rim over the glaze; on the interior surface a line in kufic writing also in gold is close to the edge of the rim and overlaps slightly with the gold band. This writing repeats the legend *al-mulk li-llāh* ('to God alone belongs sovereignty') around the rim, with one of the letters (kef) split into a line and a dot rather than repeat the single line stroke as on the previous iteration (to the right).

Unstratified.

3. *Alcazaba*, Almería, Spain (Figure 2:3).

Bowl. White porcelain from Northern China.

Eleventh century.

One rim sherd of white porcelain, plain but perhaps with some green tinge on the interior surface.

Unstratified.

4. *Alcazaba*, Almería, Spain (Figure 2:4).

Bowl. White porcelain from Northern China.

Eleventh century.

One rim sherd of white porcelain, undecorated.

Unstratified.

5. Plaza Marqués de Busianos, Valencia, Spain (Figure 2:5).

Bowl. White porcelain from Northern China.

Eleventh century.

One rim sherd of white porcelain, undecorated.

From the fill of a ditch containing 11th–13th century ceramics (Heidenreich 2007: Va-45; García 2009:155, no. 4).

6. Velluters, Valencia, Spain (Figure 2:6).

Bowl. White porcelain from Northern China.

Eleventh century.

One rim sherd of white porcelain, undecorated.

From an eleventh-century deposit [3876] (Heidenreich 2007: Va-46; García 2009: fig. 12.2).

7. Cullera Castle, Valencia, Spain (Figure 3:7).

Bowl. One rim sherd of white porcelain, with a light grey or greenish surface; undecorated.

Tenth century?

From excavations in one of the castle towers (Torre Mayor) in 1985–87 (Monraval 1990: nos. 11–15).

Associated with eleventh-century local pottery (Rosselló 2006; Heidenreich 2007: 327, Cu-8).

8. Cullera Castle, Valencia, Spain (Figure 3:8).

Bowl. One rim sherd of white porcelain, undecorated.

Tenth to eleventh centuries?

Excavations in one of the towers (Torre Mayor) in 1985–1987 (Monraval 1990: nos. 22–27).

Associated with eleventh-century local pottery (Rosselló 2006; Heidenreich 2007: 328, Cu-9).

9. *Alcazaba*, Albarracín, Teruel, Spain (Figure 6:9).

Bowl? Qingbai porcelain, Jingdezhen kilns, Southern China.

Eleventh to twelfth centuries.

White porcelain. Moulded decoration on exterior surface; incised decoration on interior, showing flowers and lotus leaves.

Found in a deposit (UE 745) dated to the first half of the twelfth century (Hernández 2018: 251).

Celadon

10. Aljafería, Zaragoza, Spain (Figure 3:10; Figure 4).

Bowl. Yaozhou, Northern China.

Celadon. Eleventh century.

Green celadon with decoration first moulded and then carved by hand on both interior and exterior surfaces. The decoration is complex, finely carved with chrysanthemums at different depths producing different tones of green.

Re-deposited in a mixed layer which also contained eighteenth and nineteenth century ceramics.

11. , Albarracín, Teruel, Spain (Figure 5:11).

Bowl. Unidentified source.

Celadon. Eleventh century?

Light greenish-grey fabric with transparent greenish glaze (which may appear brown under certain light conditions).

Unstratified (from unpublished excavations carried out in 1993/1997; Ortega 2006: 301).

12. Calle Sabaters-Plaza de Cisneros, Valencia, Spain, excavated in 1998 (Figure 5:12).

Bowl. Yue celadon, Southern China.

Celadon. Eleventh century.

From the fill (1561) of a well containing eleventh-century ceramics (Lerma 2000: 35, fig. 75; Heidenreich 2001: no. 14a; 2007, Va-47).

13. Calle Correjeria-Plaza de la Reina, Valencia, Spain, excavated in 2000 (Figure 5:13).

Bowl. Yue celadon, Southern China.

Celadon. Eleventh to twelfth centuries.

From a fill (1283) with thirteenth-century ceramics (Heidenreich 2001: no. 14b; 2007: Va-48).

14. ‘Vall Vell’, Valencia, Spain (Figure 6:14).

Bowl. Longquan, Southern China.

Celadon. Second half of the thirteenth century.

Whitish grey, very fine, hard fabric, with an opaque light grey glaze.

Context 5114 (sherd 5114-25), excavations at ‘Vall Vell’, Valencia (Rosselló & Lerma 1997: 306).

15. Palacio Real, Valencia, Spain (Figure 6:15).

Bowl. Longquan, Southern China.

Celadon. Fourteenth century.

From context 3651, excavations in 2009 at the site of the Palace in Valencia (3PRGEL) (Ribera *et al.* 2016).

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