

Dish
Iran, Nishabour, 10th century AD

"Slip-painted ware, type 3"
height 10 cm diameter 31.3 cm
diameter of base 13.3 cm
accession no. POT 433
provenance Sotheby's, 19
October 1983, lot 90

The decoration of this dish only faintly recalls Abbasid lustro-painted ceramics of the 9th-10th centuries AD, which are the general source of designs in this group. Several characteristic Samanid features are revealed in the highly stylized rendering of the bird: its frontal presentation with outspread wings in the form of half-palmette leaves, the fan-shaped tail, and the use of manganese in addition to a yellow wash for the design. Only the brown colour, and the profile form of the bird's head, recall the Abbasid prototypes.

