



National treasury

# MEDIEVAL PAINTED POTTERY AZERBAIJAN



THE EXCELLENCE OF MEDIEVAL AZERBAIJAN CERAMISTS REACHED ITS HEYDAY IN THE 11-12TH CENTURIES.





*Painted earthenware plate with an anthropomorphic scene.  
Orengala (Beylagan), 12th century.  
National Museum of History of Azerbaijan*

Various samples of painted faience and luster, decorative and household utensils made in the medieval Azerbaijani cities of Tabriz, Shamakhi, Nakhchivan, Ganja, Orengala (Beylagan), Baku and Derbent were taken out not only to the countries of the East, but were also well-known in Europe. The archeological excavations revealed ceramic plates and bowls, jugs and trays painted with natural dyes whose colors have not faded to this day. Quite amazing are not only the skills of performance and luscious

colors, but also the diverse nature of the murals: anthropomorphic and zoomorphic scenes are combined with geometric and floral patterns. Sometimes small vessels bear the images of genre scenes from poems of medieval poets. A considerable part of the murals is formed by epigraphic inscriptions in Arabic script: wishes of good luck and success, couplets from the works of poets Nizami Ganjavi, Khagani Shirvani, Saadi, Firdovsi, etc.

The samples of Azerbaijan's painted pottery are considered to

be masterpieces of pottery and are now stored at major museums and private collections around the world. A unique collection of painted pottery is stored at the Archeological Fund of the National Museum of History of Azerbaijan.

The photos show samples of painted plates of the 11-12th centuries of the medieval Azerbaijani town of Orengala (modern Beylagan). National Museum of History of Azerbaijan. ❁

[www.azhistorymuseum.az](http://www.azhistorymuseum.az)

