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Presentation type: Oral
Reference: 849
Tuesday, June 25 at 2:00 PM

Reduced Pigment (Clay-Paste) Lusters: old texts, new experiments

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Abstract

Luster is described as a thin film layer forming metallic or iridescent color glimmers when it is applied on surfaces of ceramics or glass. Lusters can be classified as oxidizing lusters and reductive medium lusters. Clay-based lusters (clay-paste) were used prevalently from the 9th century until the 19th century and they are reduced pigment (clay-paste) lusters, which were, for the first time, used by Islamic artists on ceramics surfaces. Lusters expanded to Italy and Spain via North Africa, and they have gained recognition in Europe throughout the centuries. Today, due to their specific characteristics, lusters have impressed many artists and they have taken a special place in the field of ceramic art.

In this study, clay-paste lusters prepared with copper, silver, bismuth and iron compounds were applied on glazes containing alkaline, tin and small amounts of lead, in order to obtain metallic and shiny luster effects on the glazed surfaces formed in low temperatures and in a reducing kiln atmosphere. Performing a comprehensive research on the technique of reduced pigment (clay-paste) lusters, traditional recipes, especially Piccolpasso, were examined. According to the results that were found, deductions including some examples which were obtained from today's conditions and today's materials will be presented.