

## 38–42

### Stemcups with drinking tube

Tang dynasty, 9th century

White ware with green décor

North China

No. 38: Ht. 9.0 cm, diam. rim 10.1 cm, diam. foot 6.8 cm

No. 39: Ht. 7.8, diam. rim 10.0 cm, diam. foot 5.8 cm

No. 40: Ht. 9.0 cm, diam. foot 6.3 cm

No. 41: Ht. 8.7 cm, diam. rim 11.2 cm, diam. foot 8.3 cm

No. 42: Ht. 9.0 cm, diam. rim 10.1 cm, diam. foot 6.7 cm

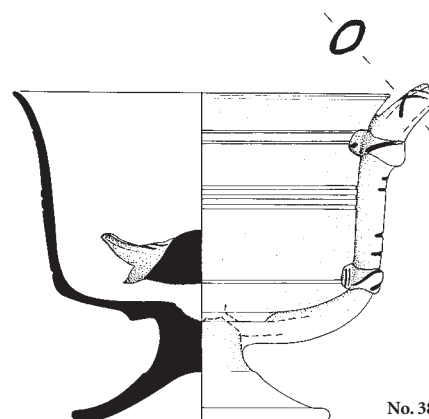


No. 40

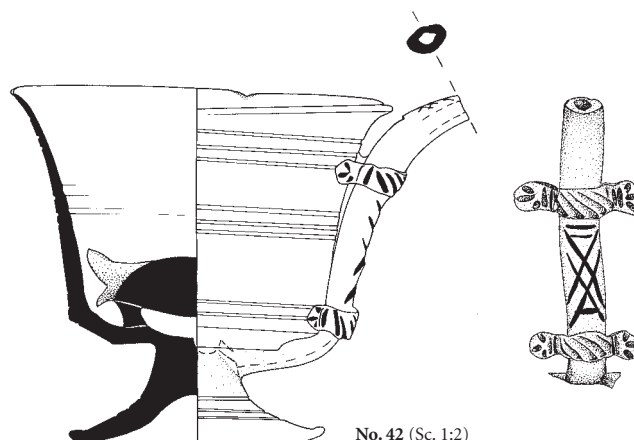
This quite exceptional type of stemcup has a little hole perforated in its centre, above which is a figurine in the shape of a fish (nos 38, 41, 42), turtle (no. 39) or duck (no. 40). A hollow clay tube is attached to the outer wall of the cup. This tube extends down to the foot, where it connects with the central perforation, thus serving as a kind of straw through which liquid can be drawn. Twenty pieces of this type have been recovered from the Belitung wreck, nos 39 and 40 being unique among the finds.

The *Guihai Yuhengzhi* by Fan Chengda (1126–1191) of the Song dynasty mentions a ceramic vessel known as a ‘nose-drinking cup’ (*biyin bei*).<sup>1</sup> According to Fan’s account, the vessel featured a tube set along its side, which allowed the user to draw liquid from the cup with his nose. This was deemed the preferable means of drinking during the summertime. Fan’s record thus illustrates the original function of this particular design.

While such cups are rarely seen among known Tang dynasty wares, fragments of similar white-ware-with-green-décor specimens have been unearthed from Samarra in Iraq.<sup>2</sup> One possible example from China, the photograph of which was unfortunately not reproduced in the published report, is a green-glazed piece excavated in Yangzhou and identified as a Tang dynasty Gongxian-ware ‘water-sucking’ cup.<sup>3</sup> A similar green-glazed piece of unknown provenance is in the collection of the Musée Guimet, Paris (see p. 243, fig. 14).



No. 38 (Sc. 1:2)



No. 42 (Sc. 1:2)

<sup>1</sup> Fan Chengda (1126–1191), 375; see also above pp. 243–244.

<sup>2</sup> Sarre 1996, 154, pl. 33:342.

<sup>3</sup> Wu Wei et al. 1990, 343.



No. 39 Overview



No. 41 Overview



No. 42



No. 38

## 43–45

### Stemcups

Tang dynasty, 9th century

White ware with green décor

North China

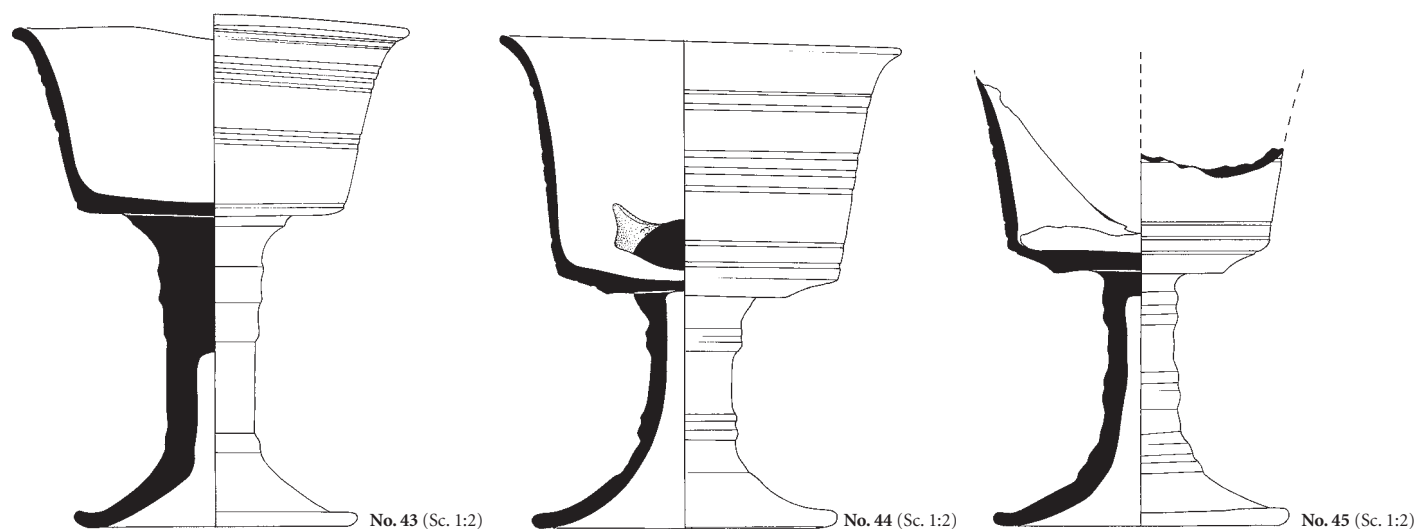
No. 43: Ht. 13.5 cm, diam. rim 10.5 cm, diam. foot 7.4 cm

No. 44: Ht. 12.9 cm, diam. rim 10.6 cm, diam. foot 8.0 cm

No. 45: Ht. (preserved) 11.9 cm, diam. foot 7.8 cm

The form of these tall stemcups with flared foot and everted rim is derived from metalware. The stem is entirely or partially hollow. The cups display deeply incised grooves on their outer wall, raised rings on the stem, and a fish figurine (no. 44) or a moulded dragon design (no. 45) on the inner centre field. The fish is identical to the one on the white ‘sucking’ cup with green décor no. 42, and the moulded dragon design can also be seen on white bowls with green décor from the Belitung wreck (nos 59–61). Thirteen pieces of this type have been found on the wreck, nos 43 and 45 being unique among them.

The remains of the Tang dynasty city of Yangzhou have yielded a white *bo*-bowl with green décor that displays a very similar dragon design on its centre.<sup>1</sup> Sherds of Tang dynasty white ware with green décor showing similar dragon appliques have also been found amongst the remains of Nishapur in Iran.<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Ma Fukun et al. 1985, 73, pl. 4; cf. also above p. 233, fig. 5..

<sup>2</sup> Wilkinson 1974, 258, pl. 13.





No. 44



No. 45 Inside medallion with dragon design

46, 47

## Cups with handle

Tang dynasty, 9th century

White ware with green décor

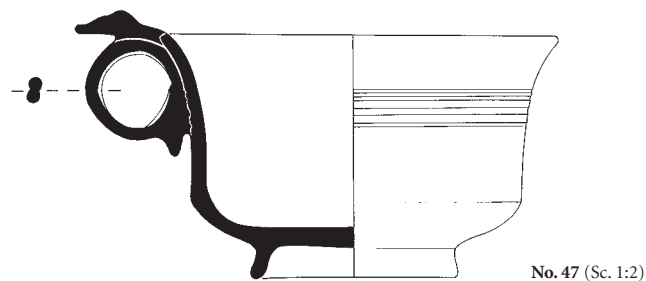
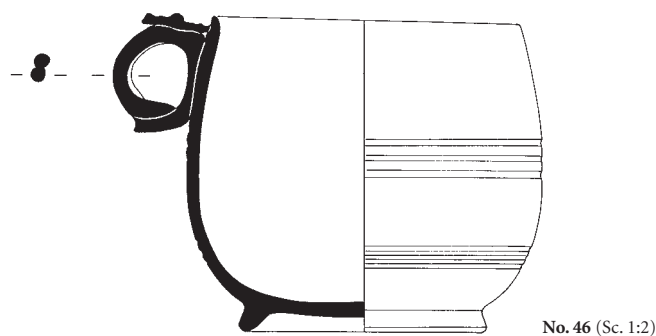
North China

No. 46: Ht. 8.4 cm, diam. rim 8.1 cm, diam. foot 6.5 cm

No. 47: Ht. 7.1 cm, diam. rim 10.4 cm, diam. foot 5.4 cm

This category of cups from the Belitung wreck encompasses a range of different shapes, including a type with in-curved rim and rounded body (no. 46), as well as a type with an everted rim and waisted sides (no. 47). However, all of them typically have a ring-shaped double-stranded handle upon which is attached a thumb plate with moulded flower design. The sides are accentuated with incised grooves. The vessels were first covered with a layer of white slip and then fully glazed on the interior and exterior before firing. The foot ring typically bears three spur marks. Three pieces of each type have been recovered from the Belitung wreck.

A *sancai* lead-glazed *zhuhu* ewer excavated from a Tang dynasty tomb in Shanxi has a moulded flower design on the handle's thumb plate that is identical to that of no. 47,<sup>1</sup> suggesting that these vessels were produced in the same kiln.



<sup>1</sup> Yuan Anzhi 1993, 48, pl. 2:2.



No. 46



No. 47

## 48–51

### Cups

Tang dynasty, 9th century

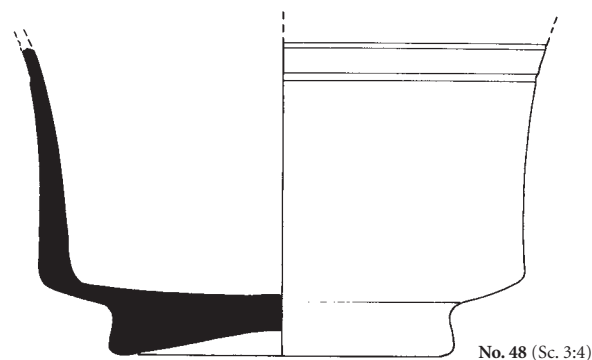
Lead green-glazed ware and white ware with green décor  
North China

No. 48: Ht. (preserved) 5.6 cm, diam. foot 6.0 cm

No. 49: Ht. 8.4 cm, diam. rim 7.6 cm, diam. foot 5.9 cm

No. 50: Ht. 7.6 cm, diam. rim 8.4 cm, diam. foot 6.1 cm

No. 51: Ht. 6.0 cm, diam. rim 8.2 cm, diam. foot 5.3 cm

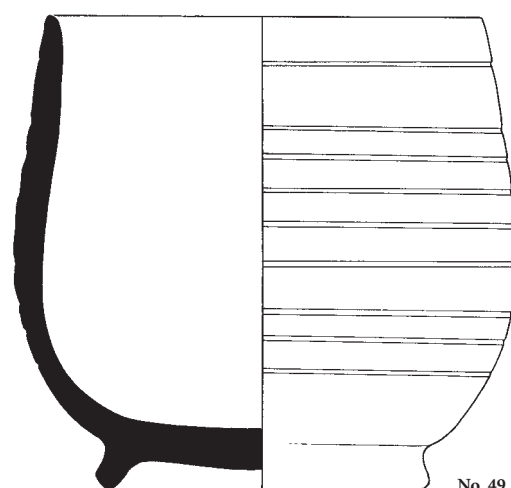


No. 48 (Sc. 3:4)

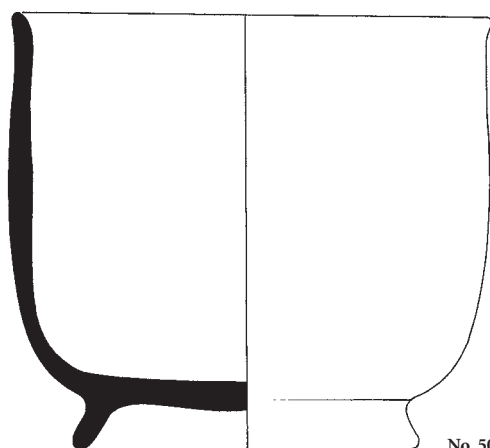
The white-glazed cups with green décor and green-glazed cups from the Belitung wreck come in a variety of shapes. Some have an everted rim, slightly concave sides, and a solid foot (no. 48), while others have a straight rim and a rounded body tapering towards the slightly splayed foot ring (no. 51).

These types of cups are, typically, fully glazed and fired in the upright position, retaining three small spur marks on the recessed centre of the ringed feet. The bodies of some (nos 48–51) also bear incised grooves.

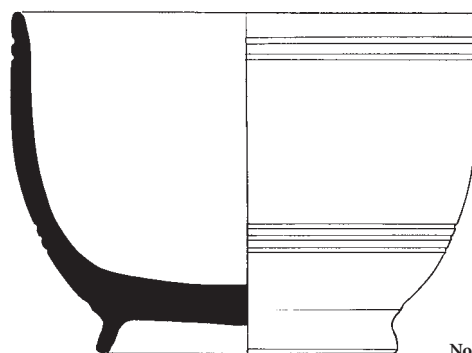
Nos 48, 50 and 51 are unique among the ceramics found on the shipwreck, while two pieces of the type of no. 49 have been recovered.



No. 49 (Sc. 3:4)



No. 50 (Sc. 3:4)



No. 51 (Sc. 3:4)





No. 48



No. 49



No. 50



No. 51



## 52–55

### Saucers

Tang dynasty, 9th century

White ware with green décor

North China

No. 52: Ht. 3.0 cm, diam. rim 16.1 cm, diam. foot 7.2 cm

No. 53: Ht. 2.8 cm, diam. rim 15.2 cm, diam. foot 7.7 cm

No. 54: Ht. 2.7 cm, diam. rim 15.5 cm, diam. foot 7.6 cm

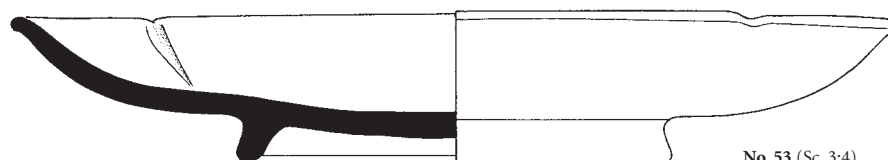
No. 55: Ht. 2.4 cm, diam. rim 15.5 cm, diam. foot 8.1 cm

These pieces, except no. 52, typically have four symmetrical indentations cut into the mouth-rim with corresponding raised ribs on the inner side of the slightly rounded wall. The foot rings are in all cases wide and splayed. The vessel body was first covered with a white slip and then fully glazed before firing. Three spur marks are generally visible on the recessed centre of the foot rings. Judging from the additional three marks on the inner central field of the saucers, it appears that these vessels were stacked on three-pronged firing supports.

The body of these vessels is markedly firm and compact in texture, suggesting that they may first have been fired at a high temperature before being covered with a lead glaze and refired at a lower temperature.



No. 52 (Sc. 3:4)



No. 53 (Sc. 3:4)



No. 52



No. 53

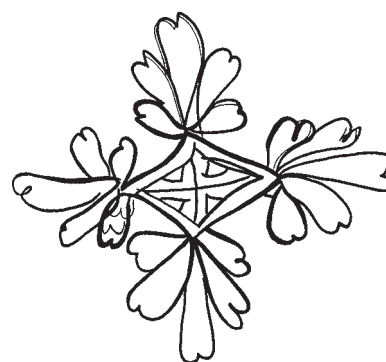
## (52–55)

It is noteworthy that some of these four-lobed saucers display elaborate intaglio patterns on the central field which combine floral, foliage, cloud, and butterfly scrolls (no. 54), or sometimes diamond-shaped floral and foliage designs (no. 55). These decorative patterns were incised after the application of the slip but before glazing and firing. The intaglio design thus cut away part of the white slip, revealing the pale red colour of the clay underneath, thereby enhancing the colour contrast and emphasizing the motif. This method of cut-slip décor can be considered a precursor to the decorative methods typical of the Song dynasty Cizhou kilns. The Belitung wreck yielded eleven pieces of the type of no. 52, five of that of no. 53 and two of that of no 55. No. 54 is unique among the finds of the wreck.

The Tang dynasty remains of the city of Yangzhou have yielded four-lobed white-glazed saucers with green décor that display a green design essentially similar to that seen on these wares.<sup>1</sup>



No. 54 (Sc. 1:2)



No. 55 (Sc. 1:2)

<sup>1</sup> Nanjing bowuyuan fajue 1977, 26, pl. 26.





No. 54



No. 55

## Dishes with everted rims

Tang dynasty, 9th century

White ware with green décor

North China

No. 56: Ht. 2.7 cm, diam. rim 24.4 cm, diam. foot 12.9 cm

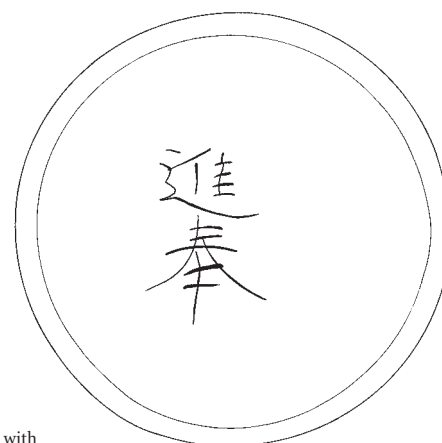
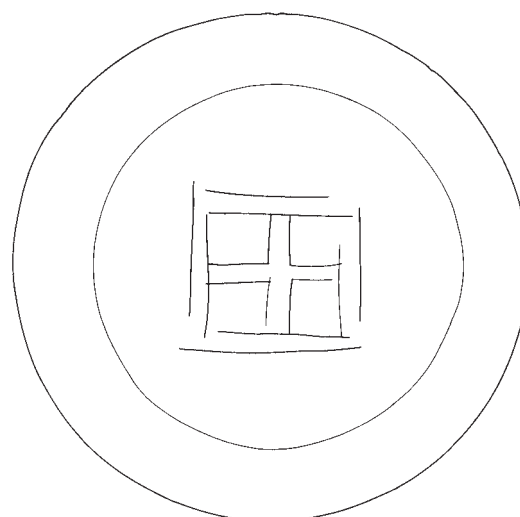
No. 57: Ht. 4.1 cm, diam. rim 22.1 cm, diam. foot 11.5 cm

No. 58: Ht. 3.0 cm, diam. rim 23.3 cm, diam. foot 11.5 cm

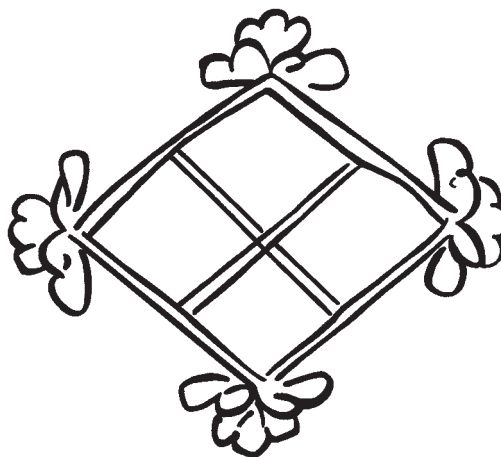
This dish type features an everted rim and, typically, slightly splayed foot ring. All known pieces are fully glazed and fired on a three-pronged support, the traces of which can be seen in the three symmetrical spur marks on the base of the foot or the centre field of the dishes. No. 57 has an intaglio diamond-shaped floral and foliage design on its centre, while no. 58 a simple incised diamond-shaped design. The base of no. 58 is incised with the characters *jinfeng*. Both the incised design and the inscription were applied before the pieces were glazed and fired. Three pieces of the type of no. 56 have been recovered from the Belitung wreck, the other two dishes being unique among the ceramic finds.

Similar dishes have been excavated from the Tang dynasty Wenhua Gong site in Yangzhou, Jiangsu,<sup>1</sup> and at the remains of Samarra in Iraq. The latter site even yielded samples with a similar diamond-shaped floral and foliage design.<sup>2</sup>

The carved inscription *jinfeng* on no. 58 deserves special attention. Historical records of the Tang dynasty suggest that pieces such as this, as well as the green-glazed bowl from the same ship inscribed with the character *ying* (no. 74), were probably so-called *gongci* tribute wares, offered as tribute to the Tang court for the personal use of the emperor. Chinese archaeological reports corroborate this theory with the fact that unearthed silver ware and silver ingots are at times also inscribed with the characters *jin* or *jinfeng*.<sup>3</sup>



No. 58 Interior with incised decoration (above) and base with incised characters *jinfeng* (below) (Sc. 1:2)



No. 57 (Sc. 1:2)

<sup>1</sup> Wang Qinjin 1994, pl. 7:1.

<sup>2</sup> Sarre 1996, 243, pl. XXVII:4; see also above p. 237, fig. 10.

<sup>3</sup> Lu Zhaoyin 1982, 173–179; see also above pp. 244–245.



No. 56



No. 57



No. 58



## 59–61

### Bowls with a medallion

Tang dynasty, 9th century

Lead green-glazed ware (no. 59, 61) and  
white ware with green décor (no. 60)

North China

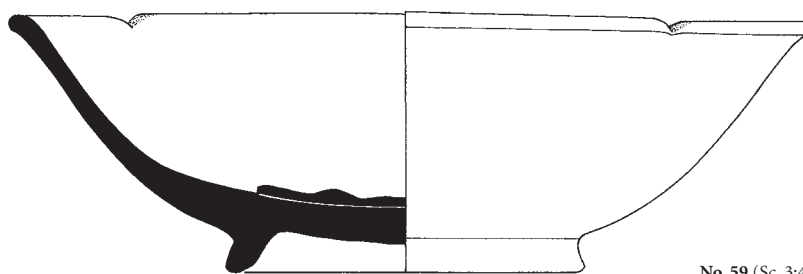
No. 59: Ht. 4.6 cm, diam. rim 14.0 cm, diam. foot 6.3 cm

No. 60: Ht. 4.2 cm, diam. rim 14.4 cm, diam. foot 6.8 cm

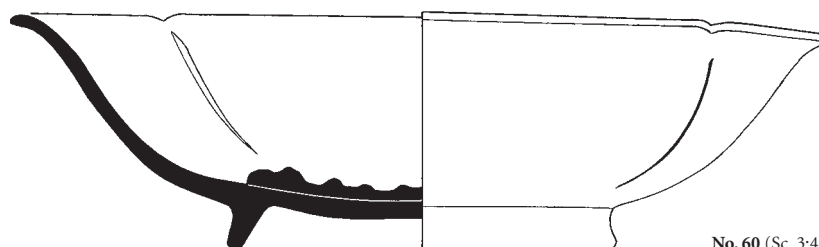
No. 61: Ht. 3.8 cm, diam. rim 13.6 cm, diam. foot 6.3 cm

Under the four-lobed rim, these bowls, except no. 59, feature four indentations on the outer wall and corresponding raised ribs on the inner wall (nos 60, 61). While the present pieces show a moulded dragon-chasing-pearl relief on the centre field, most examples of this bowl type are decorated with a bird design (cf. no. 62). The bowls were fully glazed before being fired on pronged supports. Four pieces of the type of no. 59 and two of that of no. 60 have been found on the shipwreck, no. 61 being unique among the ceramics recovered from it.

This type of moulded dragon-chasing-pearl relief is also found on the centre of a white stemcup with green décor from the Belitung wreck (no. 45), as well as on a very similar type of white bowl with green décor unearthed at the Tang era remains of Yangzhou.<sup>1</sup> A similar dragon design in moulded relief has also been found on white-glazed sherds with green décor discovered at Nishapur in Iran.<sup>2</sup>



No. 59 (Sc. 3:4)



No. 60 (Sc. 3:4)

<sup>1</sup> Ma Fukun et al. 1985, 73, pl. 4; cf. also above p. 233, fig. 5.

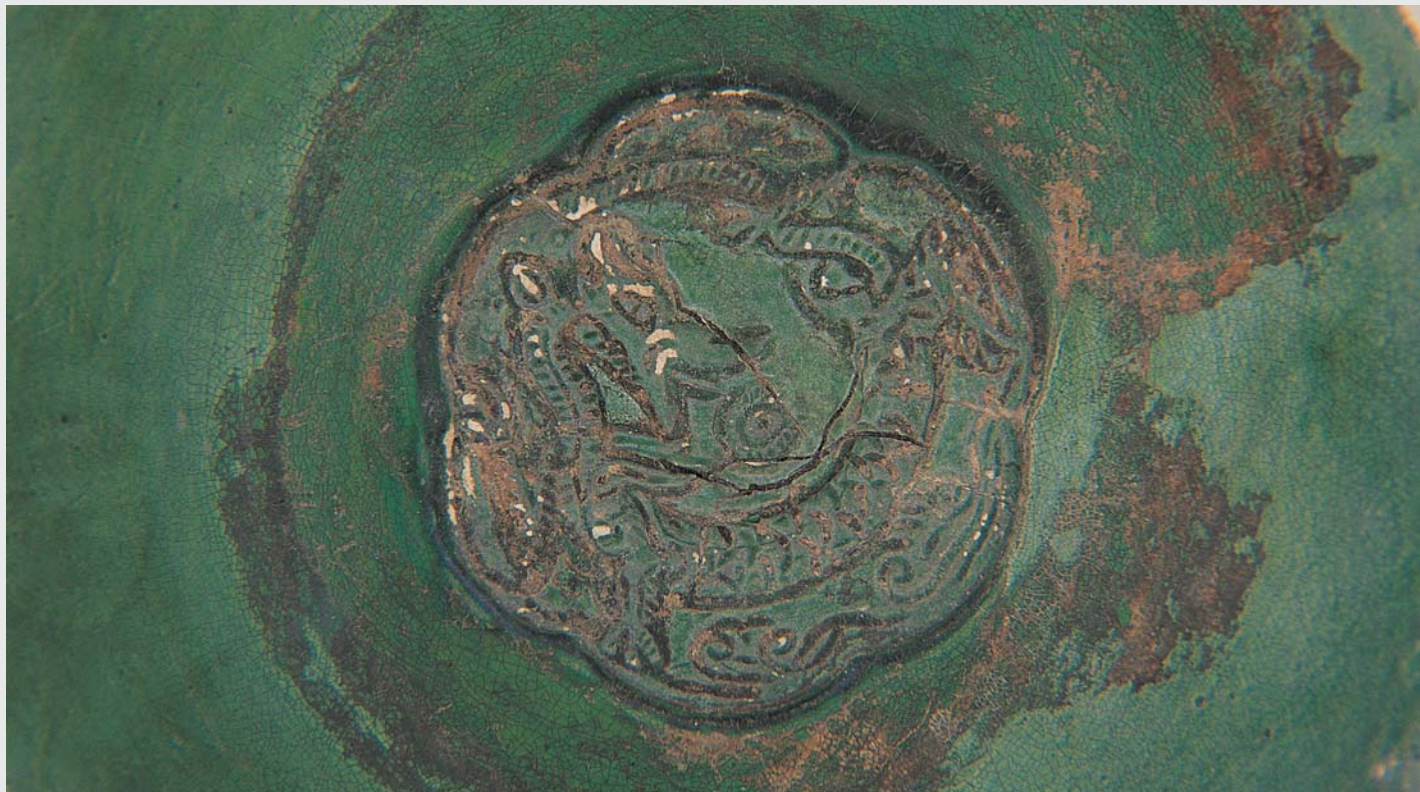
<sup>2</sup> Wilkinson 1974, 258, pl. 13.



No. 59



No. 60



No. 61 Medallion with dragon-chasing-pearl relief

62

## Bowl with a medallion (restored)

Tang dynasty, 9th century  
Lead green-glazed ware  
North China  
Ht. 3.8 cm, diam. rim (restored) 14.1 cm,  
diam. foot 6.2 cm

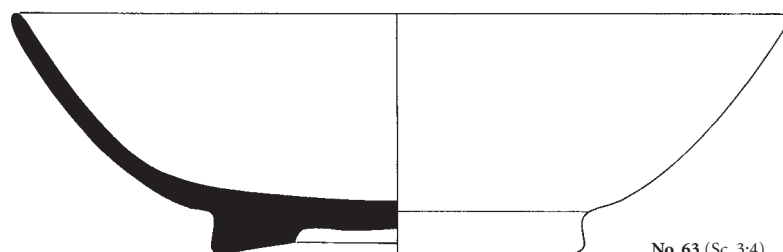
This bowl with a slightly splayed foot ring and an everted rim shows an appliqué design featuring a bird, a butterfly and a cloudhead, encircled by a 'pearl-string' ring.<sup>1</sup> The piece is covered with sequential layers of slip and pale yellow glaze with a greenish tinge. In areas of heavier accumulation, the glaze appears yellowish-brown. The piece was evidently fired standing upright in the kiln.

63

Rounded bowl with *bi*-disc foot

Tang dynasty, 9th century  
Lead green-glazed ware  
North China  
Ht. 4.2 cm, diam. rim 13.6 cm, diam. foot 6.5 cm

This bowl is covered with white slip, over which is applied a layer of green-tinted pale white glaze. The greenish tinge is most visible on the areas of heavier glaze accumulation around the foot ring. This together with the bowl's crazing shows that the glaze is of the lead-fluxed variety. The bowl stands on a so-called *bi*-disc foot, the bottom of which is covered in an uneven layer of glaze. While the bowl lacks discernible spur marks, the orientation of the glaze flow suggests that it was fired upright. Two pieces of this type have been recovered from the Belitung wreck.



No. 63 (Sc. 3:4)

<sup>1</sup> For the form of this bowl see above nos 59–61.





No. 62 Medallion with bird design



No. 63

64

## Rounded cup

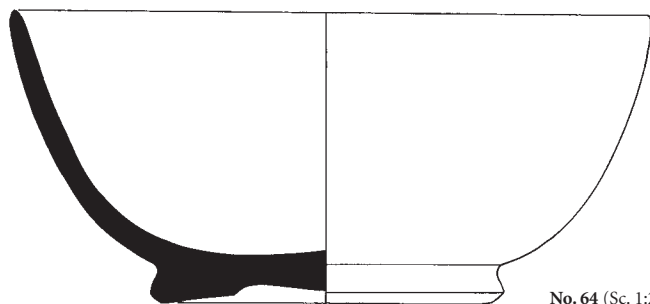
Tang dynasty, 9th century

White ware with green décor

North China

Ht. 5.1 cm, diam. rim 11.2 cm, diam. foot 6.2 cm

This rounded cup rests on a *bi*-disc foot and is completely glazed. The slightly recessed centre of the foot was pared clean on the potter's wheel. Two pieces of this type have been found on the shipwreck.







No. 64 Bottom



No. 64

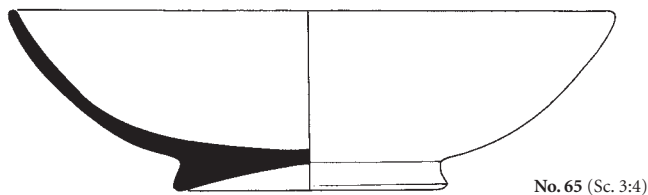


65

## Small rounded bowl

Tang dynasty, 9th century  
White ware with green décor  
North China  
Ht. 3.2 cm, diam. rim 10.6 cm, diam. foot 4.8 cm

This rounded bowl with solid splayed foot is covered with white slip, over which is applied a layer of glaze which ends shortly above the foot, leaving the biscuit of the base exposed. Thin grooves on the surface of the slightly concave base demonstrate that it was panned on the potter's wheel. Twenty-two pieces of this type have been recovered from the Belitung wreck.



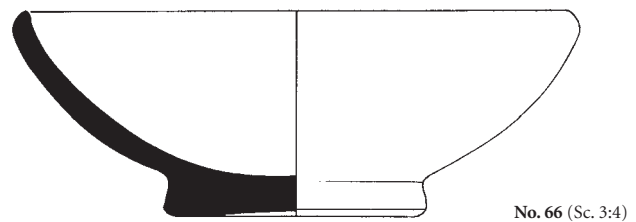
No. 65 (Sc. 3:4)

66

## Small rounded bowl

Tang dynasty, 9th century  
White ware with green décor  
North China  
Ht. 3.6 cm, diam. rim 9.9 cm, diam. foot 4.6 cm

This bowl with in-curved rim and solid foot with flat base is covered with white slip and decorated with a layer of white and green glaze, which ends in thick drops shortly above the foot. Nineteen pieces of this type have been recovered from the Belitung wreck.



No. 66 (Sc. 3:4)



No. 65



No. 66

67

## Small conical bowl

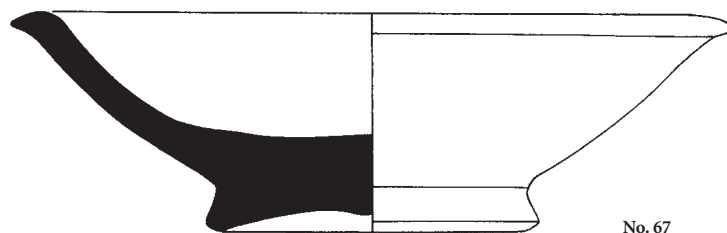
Tang dynasty, 9th century

Lead green-glazed ware

North China

Ht. 2.9 cm, diam. rim 9.5 cm, diam. foot 4.4 cm

This conical bowl has a flared rim rests on an almost flat solid foot. The vessel is covered with layers of white slip and green glaze except for the foot, which reveals the compact stone-ware biscuit. Twenty-two pieces of this type have been found on the shipwreck.



No. 67

68

## Small dish

Tang dynasty, 9th century

Lead green-glazed ware

North China

Ht. 2.4 cm, diam. rim 10.5 cm, diam. foot 4.6 cm

Similar in glaze and biscuit to no. 67, this vessel also rests on an unglazed foot and has a slightly rounded body. Six pieces of this type have been recovered from the Belitung wreck.



No. 68



No. 67



No. 68

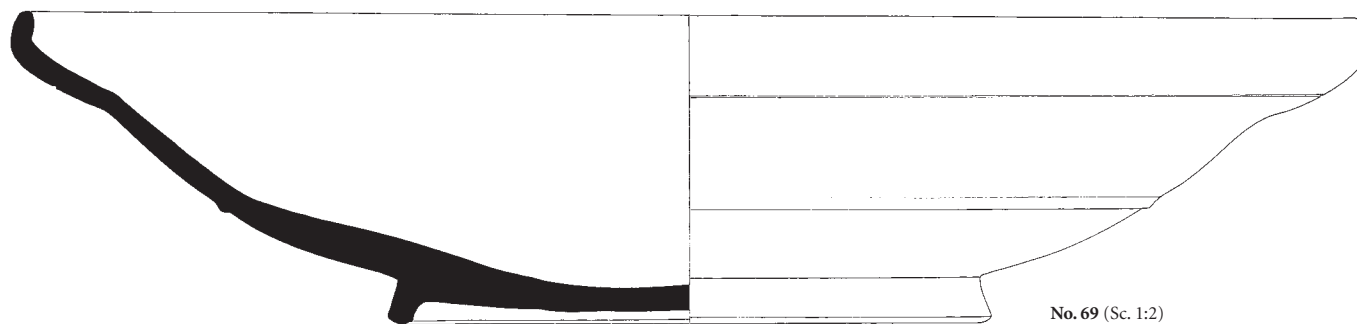


69

## Plate with foot ring

Tang dynasty, 9th century  
White ware with green décor  
North China  
Ht. 8.2 cm, diam. rim 35.9 cm, diam. foot 16.0 cm

The slightly rounded walls of this shallow plate widen abruptly towards the in-curved rim. A thin raised ring encircles the outer wall halfway up the vessel's body and a fine line is incised under the rim. The plate rests on a fully-glazed foot ring, inside of which can be discerned three symmetrical spur marks indicating that the dish was fired in an upright position. It is unique among the ceramics found on the shipwreck.



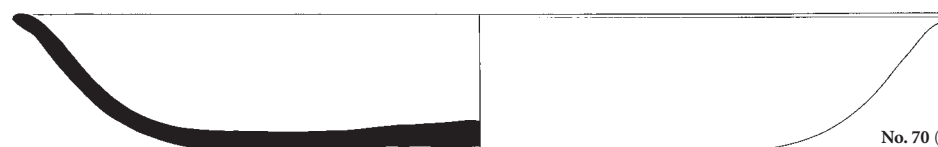
No. 69 (Sc. 1:2)

70

## Plate without foot

Tang dynasty, 9th century  
White ware with green décor  
North China  
Ht. 3.5 cm, diam. rim 24.7 cm

The almost flat bottom of this fully-glazed shallow plate with flared rim bears three spur marks. The piece displays the same type of painted décor as nos 52–55 but its form is unique among the ceramics recovered from the Belitung shipwreck.



No. 70 (Sc. 1:2)



No. 69



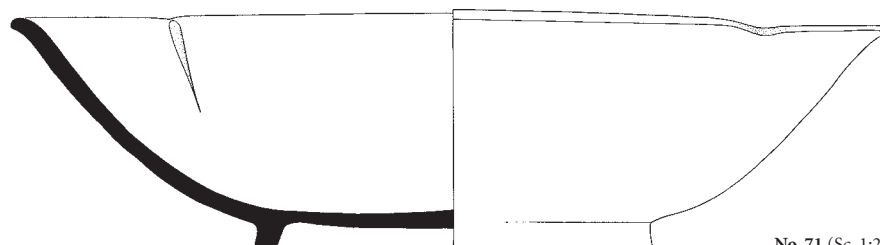
No. 70

71

## Four-lobed bowl

Tang dynasty, 9th century  
White ware with green décor  
North China  
Ht. 6.3 cm, diam. rim 23.2 cm, diam. foot 10.5 cm

The bowl rests on a foot ring and has four notches in the rim, which continue in four vertical raised ribs inside. The whole vessel is covered in layers of white slip and glaze. It was fired upright, and three spur marks can be discerned inside on the centre. Five pieces of this type were found on the shipwreck (see also below nos 72, 74)



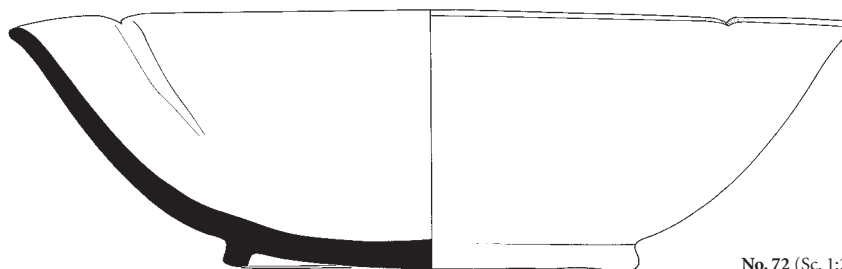
No. 71 (Sc. 1:2)

72

## Four-lobed bowl

Tang dynasty, 9th century  
White ware with green décor  
North China  
Ht. 6.8 cm, diam. rim 22.2 cm, diam. foot 11.0 cm

Similarly to no. 71, four notches on the rim of this bowl, which correspond to vertical raised ribs inside, divide it into four lobes. The foot ring shows faint traces of paring on the potter's wheel. Although no spur marks are visible inside the bowl, three fine marks can be discerned on the recessed centre of the foot ring. The bowl is entirely covered in layers of white slip and glaze.



No. 72 (Sc. 1:2)





No. 71



No. 72

73

## Basin

Tang dynasty, 9th century

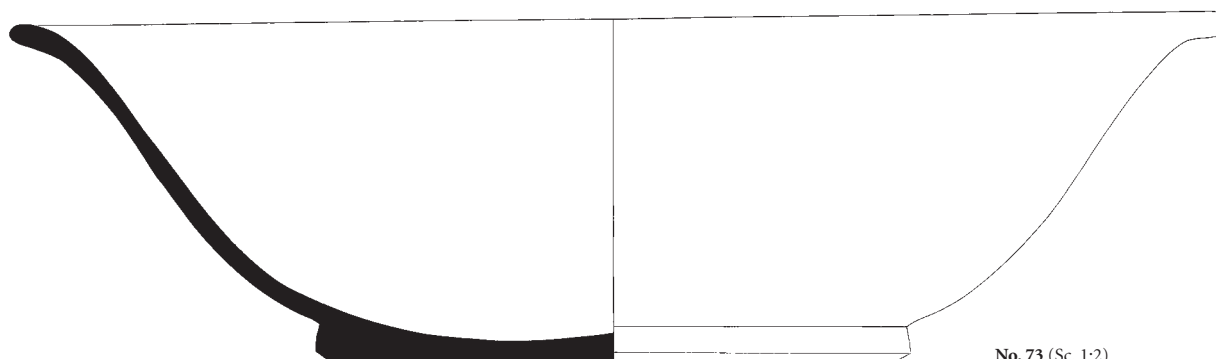
White ware with green décor

North China

Ht. 9.1 cm, diam. rim 32.2 cm, diam. foot 15.7 cm

This wide basin has a solid foot with flat base, and a flared rim. It is fully glazed inside and retains three tiny spur marks on the centre, while the glaze covering the outer wall does not reach the foot of the vessel. Intact marks of a three-pronged support can still be clearly distinguished on the base. These two sets of marks, inside and out, indicate that such basins were stacked on three-pronged firing supports. Two pieces of this type have been recovered from the Belitung wreck.

White basins with green décor and of similar shape have previously been unearthed from Tang dynasty remains in Yangzhou,<sup>1</sup> as well as from the site of Samarra in Iraq.<sup>2</sup> Some of the Samarra examples have an indecipherable Arabic inscription applied in ink on the centre.



<sup>1</sup> Wang Qinjin 1994, pl. 7:3; see above p. 233, fig. 6.

<sup>2</sup> Sarre 1996, pl. 784a.



No. 73 Bottom



No. 73



## Four-lobed bowl incised with the character *ying*

Tang dynasty, 9th century

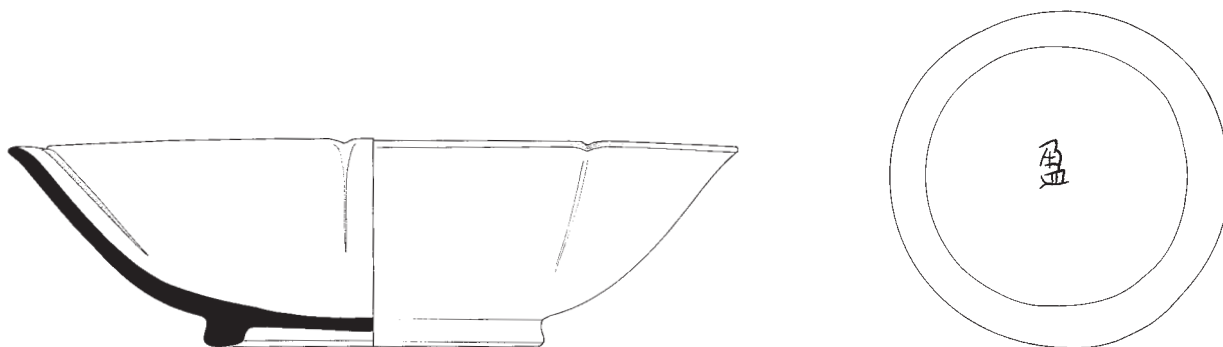
Lead green-glazed ware

North China

Ht. 5.5 cm, diam. rim 19.3 cm, diam. foot 8.9 cm

This piece is fully glazed and bears three tiny spur marks on the recessed centre of its foot ring. The rim has four indentations corresponding to raised ribs inside. The recessed centre of the foot ring was incised with the character *ying* before the piece was glazed and fired. Chinese archaeological finds indicate that wares inscribed with the character *ying* are largely datable to the ninth century and can be uniformly classified as high-fired white wares that were very probably produced at the famous Xing kilns in Hebei province.<sup>1</sup> The possibility that this piece originated from the Xing kilns is undoubtedly a topic that deserves further attention.

Textual records indicate that during the Kaiyuan reign period (713–741), two palace storehouses, the Daying and Qionglin, were established for the personal use of the emperor.<sup>2</sup> It therefore seems very probable that ceramic wares bearing the character *ying* were originally tribute wares destined for the Daying storehouse.<sup>3</sup> The white dish with green décor marked with the characters *jin feng* (no. 58), may also have belonged to this type of ware. The eleventh-century Persian historian Bayhaqi (995–1077) mentions that the ceramics offered by the governor of Khurasan, Ali ben Isa, to Caliph Harun, included, ‘porcelain from the Chinese imperial household’ (China Faghfuri).<sup>4</sup> Although we do not know what these wares looked like, it is not impossible that they belonged to the type considered here.



No 74 Shape (left) and inside of foot with character *ying* (right) (Sc. 1:2)

<sup>1</sup> Examples of white wares with the *ying* inscription have been excavated at the following sites: the Tang dynasty remains of Qinglongsi in Shanxi (Zhai Chunling et al. 1997, 7); the remains of Ximingsi (An Jiayao 1990, pl. 7:3); the Daminggong site (Bi Nanhai 1988, 13); the tomb of He Shaojun in Hebei, dated 864 (Shi Yongshi 1988, 67, pl. 3:1); and the tomb of Yuelü Yu in Inner Mongolia, dated 942 (Neimenggu wenwu 1996, 24, pl. 48:8). See also above pp. 241–242, fig. 13.

<sup>2</sup> Muronaga Yoshizō 1969, 93–109; Nakamura Yūichi 1971, 160–162.

<sup>3</sup> Hsieh Mingliang 1987, 11.

<sup>4</sup> Zhang Guangda 1995, 451.



No 74 Bottom



No 74

## *Hu* ewer with long handle

Tang dynasty, 9th century

White ware with green décor

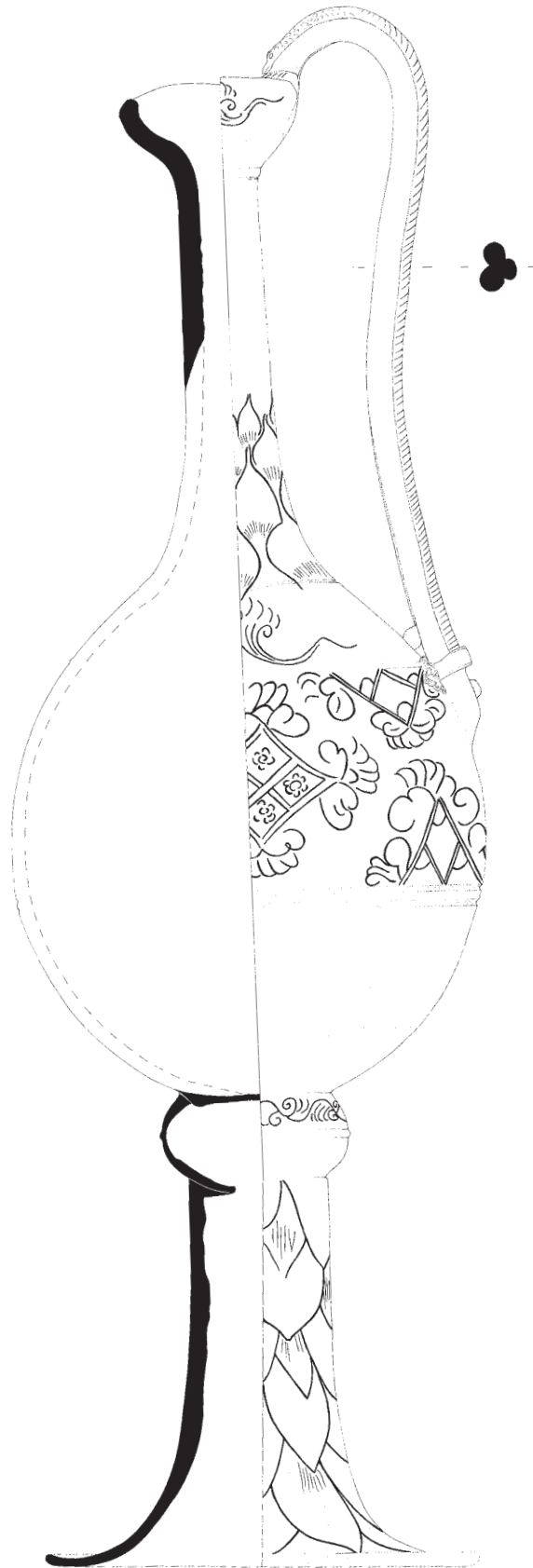
North China

Ht. without dragon head 89.0 cm, ht. with dragon head

93.0 cm, diam. mouth 10.2 cm, diam. foot 24.7 cm

Dragon head: Ht. 11.0 cm, l. 15.2 cm, w. 5.7 cm

This huge *hu* ewer is unique among the ceramics recovered from the Belitung wreck. It has a globular body, a narrow elongated neck and a wide, lobed mouth with an in-curved rim. One of the three strands of the long handle ends at the rim of the vessel in a snake-head with gaping mouth and tongue pointing inside the ewer. The rest of this strand bears incised lines simulating the snake's scales. A ring-shaped element separates the body of the ewer from the high, hollow, trumpet-shaped foot. Even though the cargo of the Belitung wreck includes a green-glazed ceramic dragon-head with a dowel that roughly fits the lobed mouth of this ewer, it is, still, difficult to ascertain whether or not this piece was originally part of the ewer. Whatever the case, the splendid appearance of this huge ewer is further enhanced by the engraved decoration covering the body in a profusion of dense patterns that, nonetheless, convey a sense of order: cloud scrolls on the lobed mouth and the shoulder, upward- and downward-facing lotus on the lower part of the neck and on the high foot, foliage scrolls on the ring-shaped element above the foot, and a diamond-shaped floral and foliage pattern on the central section of the body framed above and below by a pair of incised grooves.



No. 75 (Sc. 1:4)

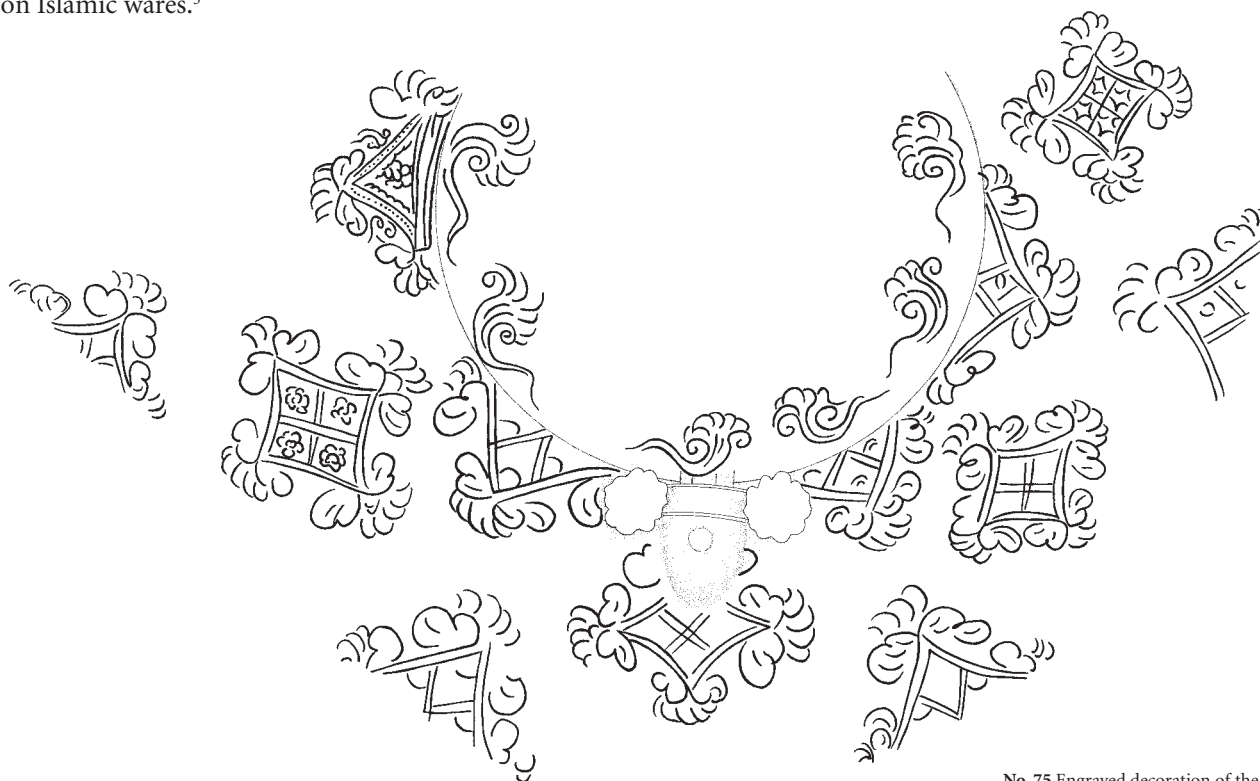




No 75 Ewer with (*left*) and without (*right*) dragon head

The diamond-shaped floral design is one of the most distinctive decorative patterns found on the wares of the Belitung wreck, appearing not only on pieces such as the three so-called blue-and-white wares (nos 107–109), but also on white dishes with green décor (nos 55, 57), white lidded boxes with green décor (no. 84), and green-glazed wide-mouthed jars (no. 76). The design has also been discovered at the Changsha kiln remains in Hunan province,<sup>1</sup> on a cosmetic box from a Tang dynasty tomb in Chenzhou, Hunan,<sup>2</sup> and on Islamic wares.<sup>3</sup>

The distinctive shape of this vessel may have been inspired by metalware. Chinese archaeological finds of similar ceramic vessels include eighth-century Tang *sancal* wares and a white *zhuhu* ewer with phoenix head excavated in Hebei province and dated to the Five Dynasties period.<sup>4</sup> Similar shapes have also been found among the copper ewers unearthed from Liao tombs in Inner Mongolia.<sup>5</sup>



No. 75 Engraved decoration of the body (Sc. 1:4)

<sup>1</sup> Feng Xianming 1960, 31, pl. 2.

<sup>2</sup> Lei Zigan 2000, 95, pl. 2:1.

<sup>3</sup> Lane 1947, pl. 8a; see also above pp. 235–237.

<sup>4</sup> Wenwu chunqiu 1999: 5, lower right plate on inside front cover.

<sup>5</sup> Xiang Chunxiong 1984, pl. 4:1.





No. 75 Engraved decoration of the body

76

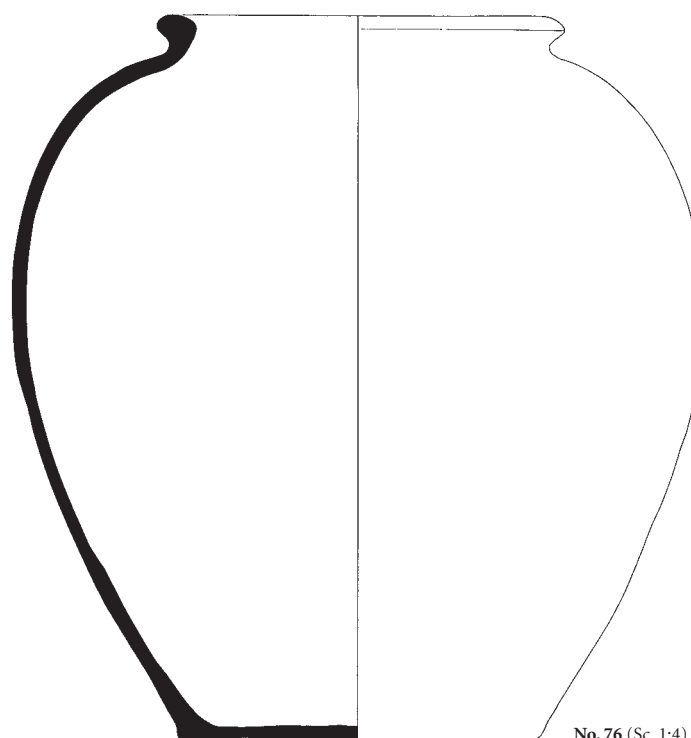
## Ovoid jar

Tang dynasty, 9th century  
White ware with green décor (possibly)  
North China  
Ht. 38.2 cm, diam. rim 21.6 cm

This piece, unique to the wreck, was made entirely from clay strips. It is decorated with an incised design of two dragons with three claws and double horns. Clouds emerge from the dragons' mouths, the upper halves of their bodies are scaled and a pearl-shaped design encircles their necks. Diamond-shaped floral motifs are added between the two dragons. Although the jar has lost nearly all of its glaze, traces of green colour are still discernible on the body, especially in the incised lines of the décor.

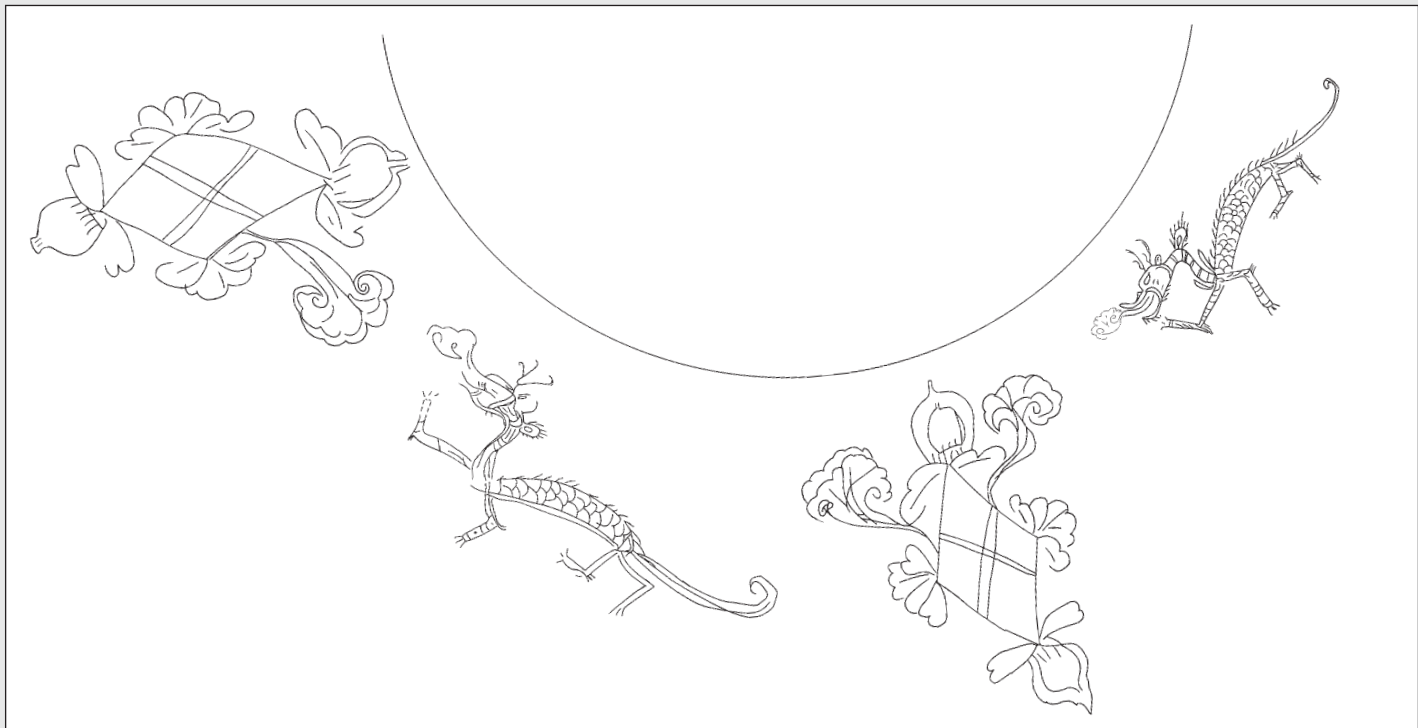
The general similarity between this piece and white lidded jars with green décor found on the same wreck (nos 80, 82) suggests that the jar was originally accompanied by a cover with a pearl-shaped knob.

The dragon design is basically similar to the moulded relief décor seen on the centre of the white bowls with green décor from the Belitung wreck (cf. nos 59–61), while the incised diamond-shaped floral motif also appears on some of the wreck's white wares with green décor (cf. nos 55, 57, 75, 84), as well as in cobalt-blue painted designs on so-called Tang blue-and-white wares (cf. nos 107–109).



No. 76 (Sc. 1:4)





No 76 Incised decoration of the body (Sc. 1:5)



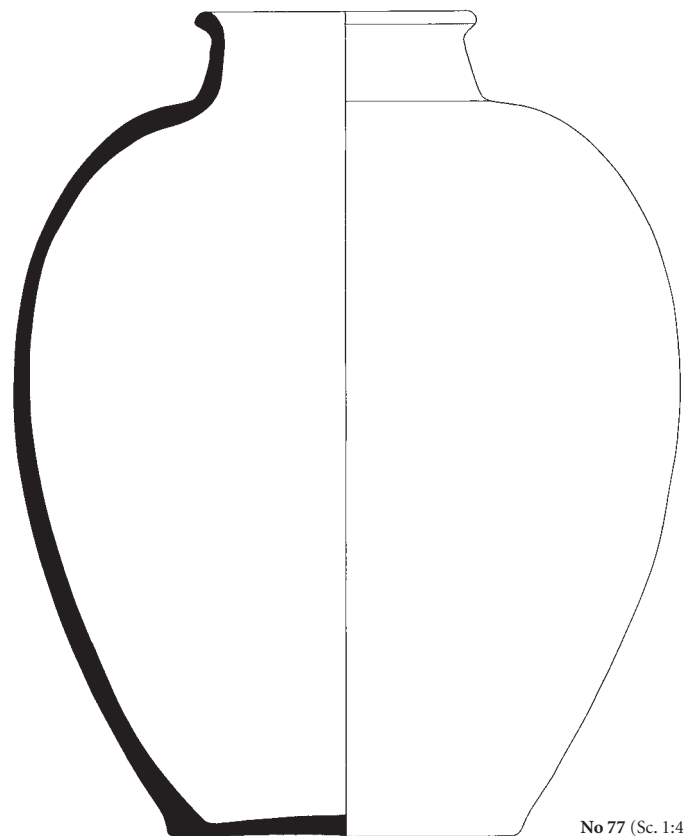
No 76 Jar and potential cover

77

## Ovoid jar with short neck

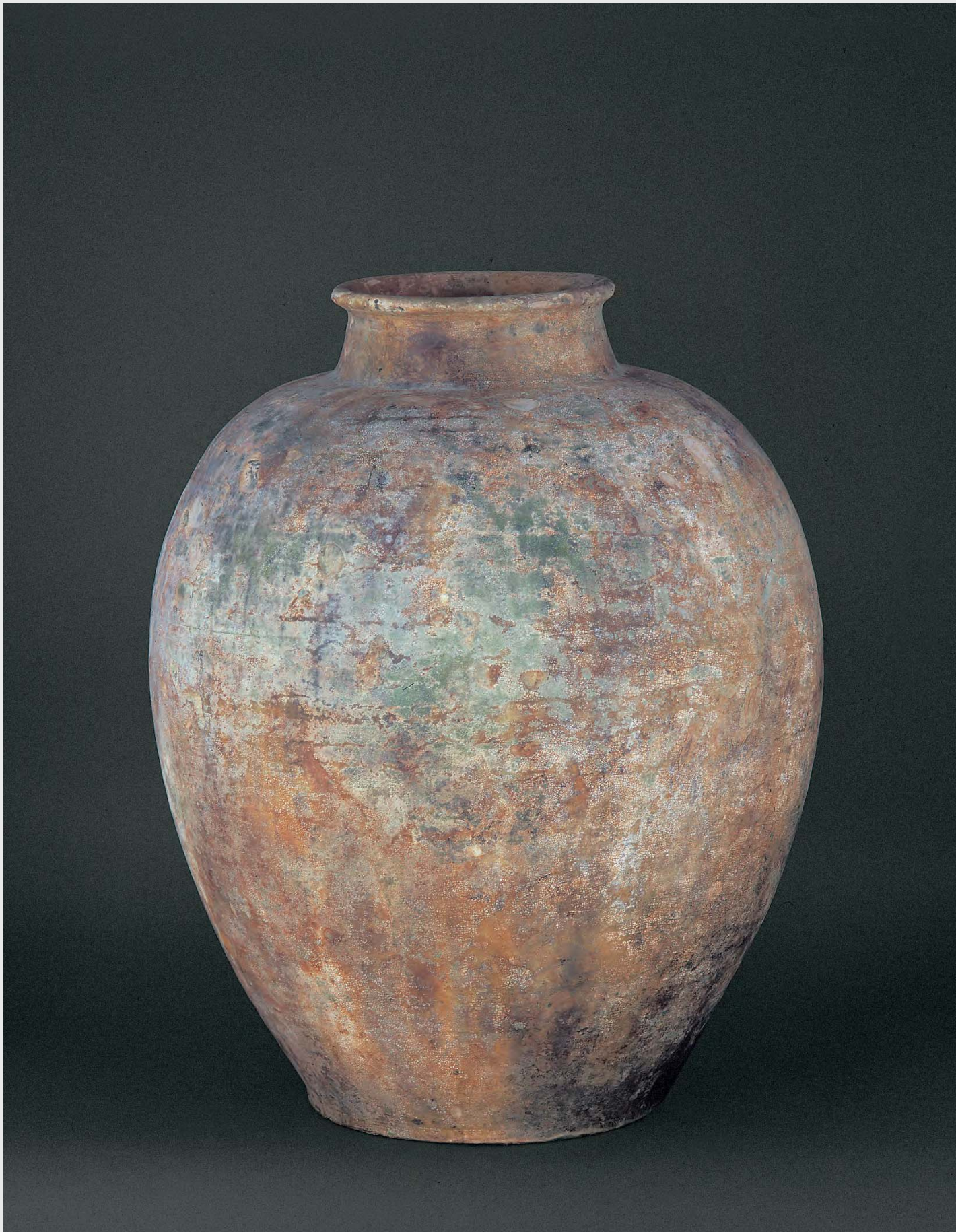
Tang dynasty, 9th century  
White ware with green décor (possibly)  
North China  
Ht. 43,6 cm, diam. rim 14.8 cm

The everted rim of this jar, also unique among the ceramics of the Belitung wreck, sits on a short slightly flaring neck. The vessel's bulging ovoid body tapers towards the flat base and turning marks can be discerned on it. Although the glaze has largely vanished during the long exposure to sea water, remaining traces suggest that the piece was originally covered with green glaze.



No 77 (Sc. 1:4)





No 77

78

## *Hu* flask with lugs

Tang dynasty, 9th century

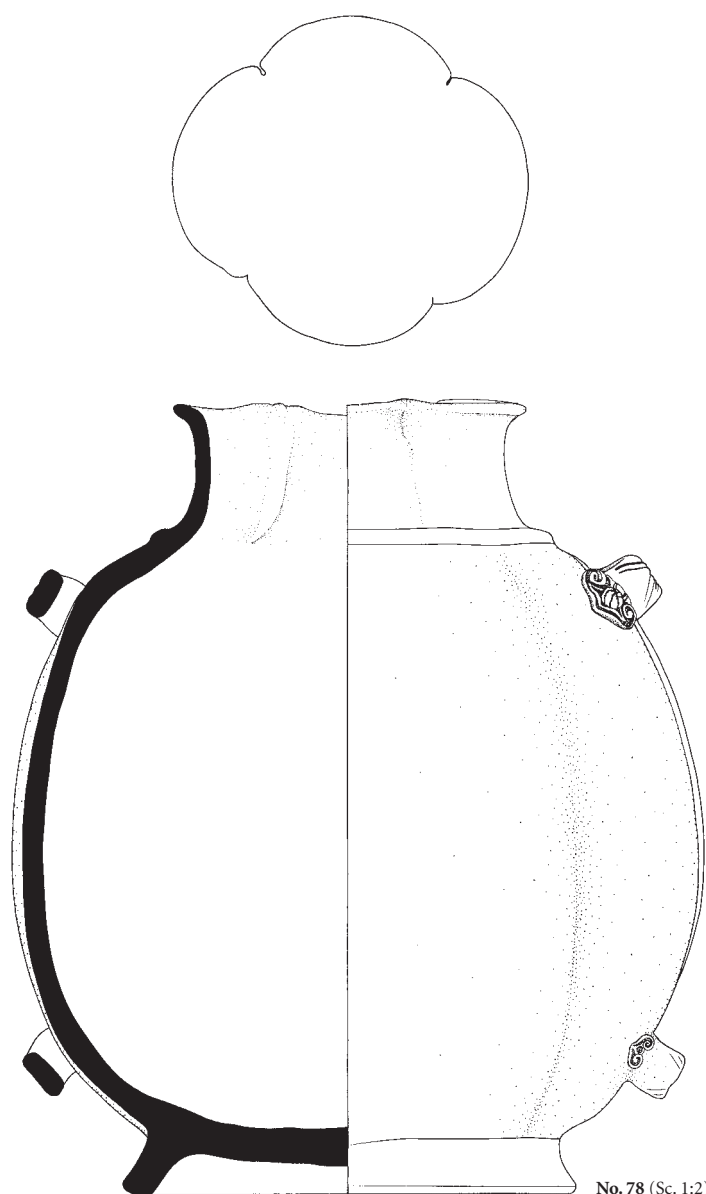
White ware with green décor (possibly)

North China

Ht. 21.0 cm, w. rim 9.3 / 8.0 cm, diam. foot 12.0 cm

This pumpkin-shaped *hu* flask has two pairs of lugs set on either side of the body. The four-lobed short neck and the foot ring were both added after the body was shaped. Due to its long immersion in water, most of the glaze has already vanished, but surfaces such as the inside of the foot ring still display clearly discernible traces of green glaze. It is a unique piece among the ceramics found on the shipwreck.

*Hu* flasks with lugs from the Belitung wreck further include green-glazed examples from the Yue kilns (nos 140, 141) and white examples from the Xing kilns (nos 103, 104) in China, which suggests that this particular type of metalware-inspired ewer (cf. no. 21) was widely popular in the ninth century.







No. 78 Detail of a lug



No. 78 Front and side view

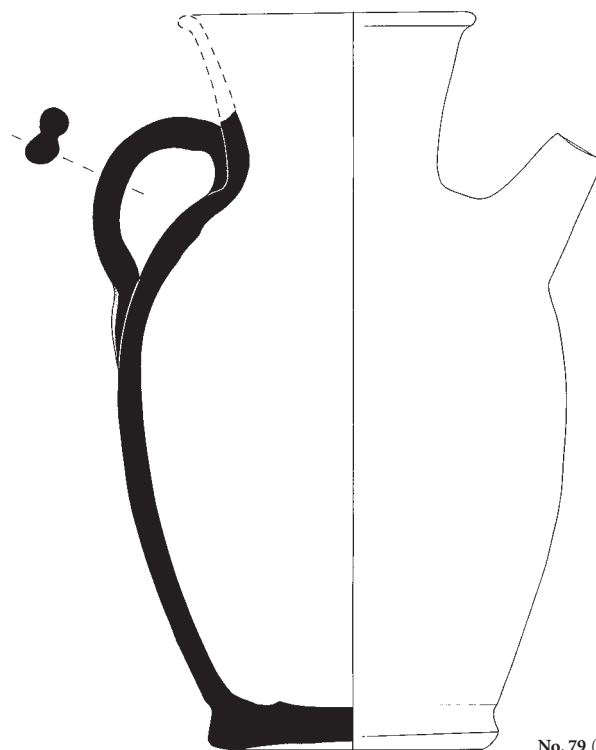
## Zhuhu ewer

Tang dynasty, 9th century  
Lead green-glazed ware  
North China  
Ht. 19.5 cm

The ovoid body of this ewer stands on a solid foot with flat base and has a tubular tapering spout on the shoulder opposite a double-stranded short handle. With the exception of the foot and lower parts of the body, the entire vessel body is covered with a green glaze over a white slip. Five pieces of this type have been recovered from the Belitung wreck.

A similar white-glazed *zhuhu* ewer with green décor has been found in a Tang tomb in Xuejiazhuang, located at Anyang in Henan province<sup>1</sup> and has elsewhere been assigned to the Five Dynasties period.<sup>2</sup> A white bowl of typical ninth-century shape with *bi*-foot unearthed from the same tomb, however, along with its white lobed saucer, is identical to a specimen excavated from the tomb of Ancestor Liu in Lincheng, Hebei province, dated to the year 856.<sup>3</sup> It therefore seems more plausible that the date of the *zhuhu* ewer of Anyang given in the original excavation report was indeed correct.

Similar white- and yellow-glazed *zhuhu* ewers have also been excavated from the tomb of Ancestor Liu, as well as from the tomb of Song Jiajin in Shanxi (792).<sup>4</sup>



No. 79 (Sc. 1:2)

<sup>1</sup> Liu Dongya 1958, pl. 1:8 (right); see above p. 231, fig. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Sun Xinmin 1996, 109.

<sup>3</sup> Li Zhenqi et al. 1990, 22, pls 2:5, 2:6.

<sup>4</sup> Hou Genzhi 1989, 48, pl. 11; see above p. 231, fig. 2.



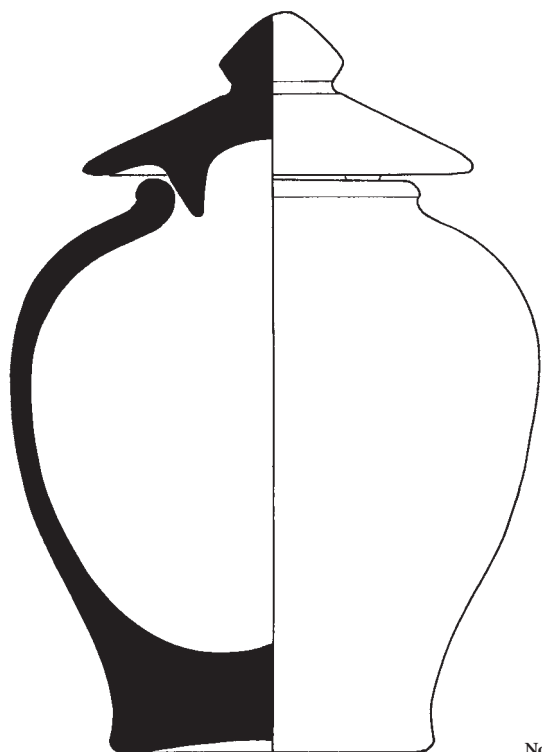
No. 79

80

## Small jar with lid

Tang dynasty, 9th century  
 White ware with green décor  
 North China  
 Ht. with lid 9.7 cm, ht. without lid 7.5 cm

This small ovoid jar, unique to the Belitung wreck, has a thick turned-over rim with a sharp edge and rests on a flat base. The conical lid of the vessel is surmounted with a slightly flattened onion-shaped knob. The vessel is covered with sequential layers of white slip and green glaze that ends in drops well above the base.



No. 80

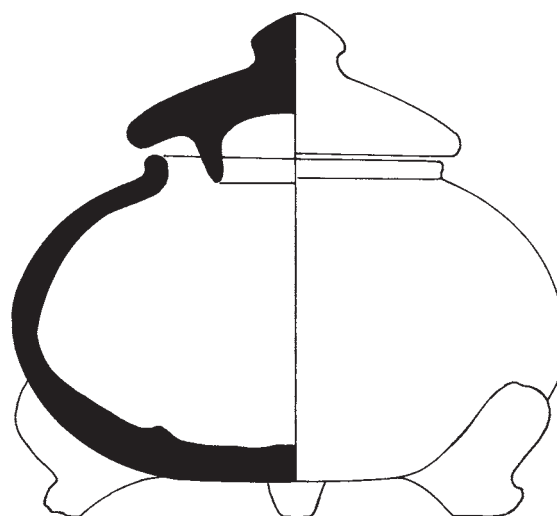
81

## Small tripod vessel

Tang dynasty, 9th century  
 Lead green-glazed ware  
 North China  
 Ht. with lid 6.4 cm, ht. without lid 4.7 cm

This small squat vessel rests on three feet and is covered with a slightly domed lid with a pointed knob. It is fully covered with layers of white slip and green glaze and shows turning marks on the body. Spur marks on the underside demonstrate that the piece was fired upright in the kiln. Two pieces of this type have been recovered from the shipwreck.

A similarly shaped and glazed vessel was unearthed from the tomb of Zheng Shaofang (814) at Yanshi, Henan province<sup>1</sup> suggesting that the present vessel may be dated to the early ninth century.



No. 81

<sup>1</sup> Zhongguo shehui kexueyuan 2001, 177, pl. 16:5.





No. 80



No. 81

82

## Large ovoid jar with lid

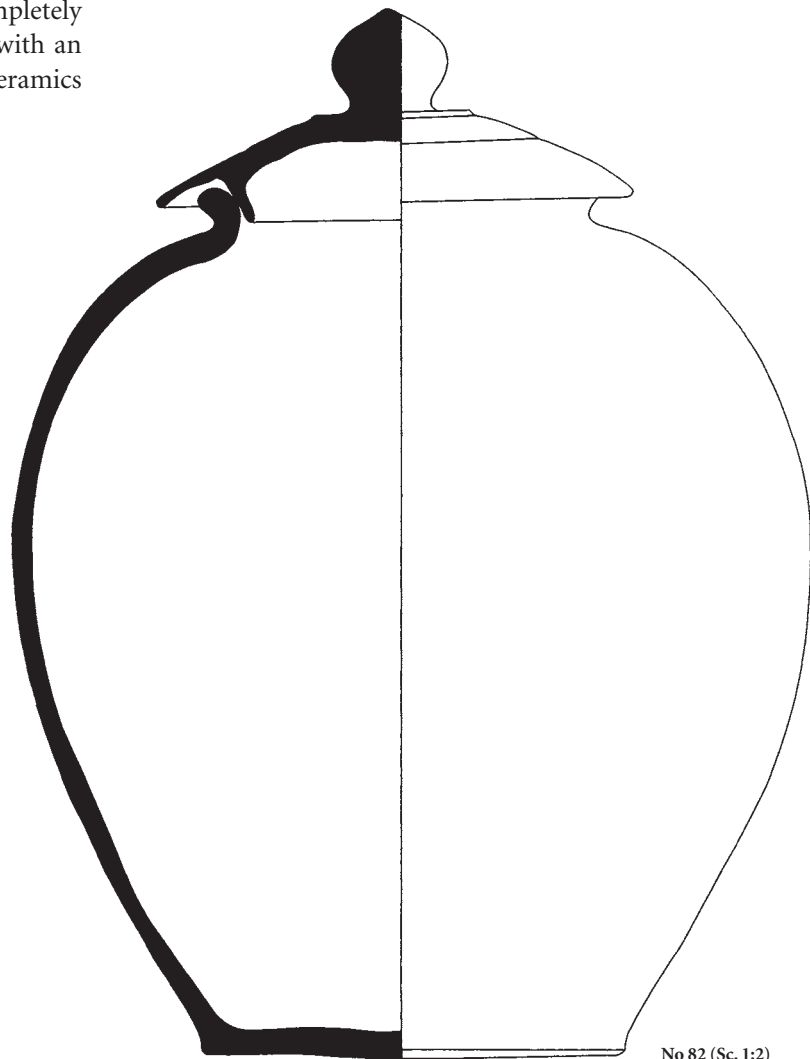
Tang dynasty, 9th century

White ware with green décor

North China

Ht. with lid 47,6, ht. without lid 39.4 cm,  
diam. rim 18.0 cm

This large ovoid jar rests on a flat base and has a wide everted rim. With the exception of the base, the vessel is completely glazed. The conical lid of the vessel is surmounted with an onion-shaped knob. The piece is unique among the ceramics found on the shipwreck.





No 82

## Zhuhu ewer

Tang dynasty, 9th century

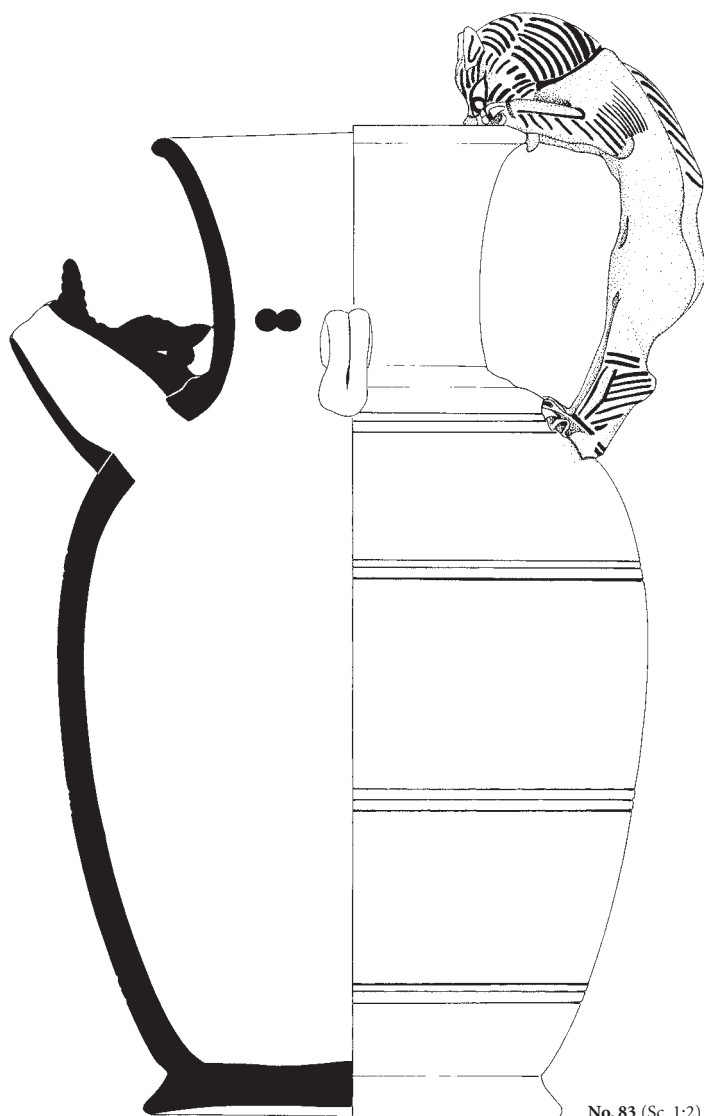
White ware with green décor

North China

Ht. 28.3 cm, diam. rim 10.0 cm, diam. foot 11.0 cm

This ovoid ewer, unique to the wreck, has a lion-shaped handle attached to its mouth and shoulder, a spout in form of a dragon head, and delicate, ring-shaped, double-stranded lugs vertically placed on the shoulder between the handle and the spout. It rests on a solid splayed foot with flat base. The neck flares towards the rolled lip.

A similar white ewer with lion-shaped handle was excavated from the late Tang stratum at the Ding kiln remains in Hebei province.<sup>1</sup> Another example was recovered from the Tang tomb 14 at Bailuyuan, Xi'an.<sup>2</sup> Although the latter tomb lacks a clear date, it also yielded a black-glazed double-lugged jar that is identical to a jar found in the nearby tomb of Li Liang, which is dated to the year 801,<sup>3</sup> thereby suggesting an early-ninth-century date for tomb 14.



No. 83 (Sc. 1:2)

<sup>1</sup> Lin Hong 1965, pl. 5:5; see also above p. 240, fig. 11.

<sup>2</sup> Yu Weichao 1956, pl. 7:4; see above p. 232, fig. 3.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., pl. 8:9.





No. 83

## Box with cover

Tang dynasty, 9th century

White ware with green décor

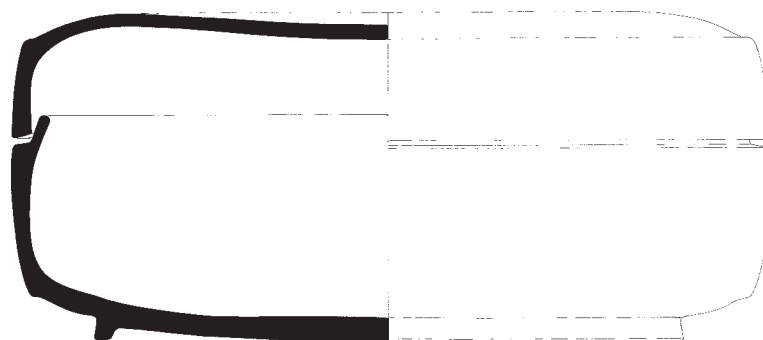
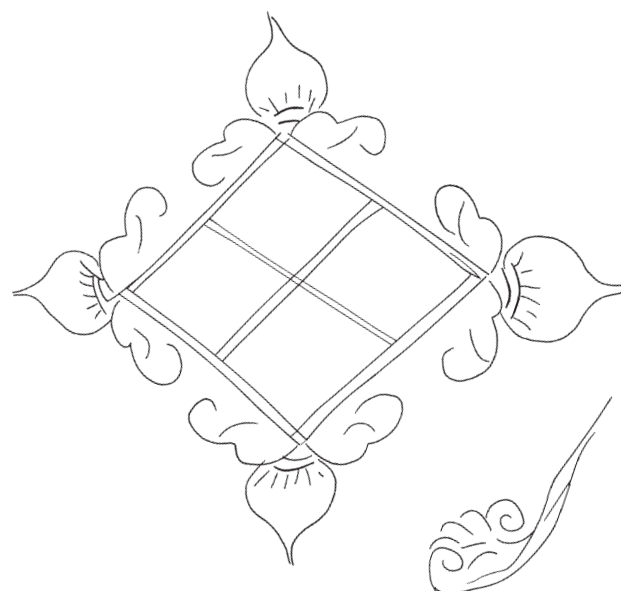
North China

Ht. with lid 17.4 cm, ht. without lid 11.9 cm,  
diam. foot 31.2 cm

This very large box has a wide foot ring, straight sides and a recessed rim to receive the cover. The almost flat surface of the cover is incised with a diamond-shaped motif, with lotus designs at the corners. A cloud scroll is added near the edge of the cover. The glaze has largely vanished. The piece is unique among the ceramics from the Belitung wreck.

The diamond-shaped floral design of this box is of a type rarely seen on Chinese artefacts. However, similar decorative patterns can be seen on samples from the Changsha kiln remains in Hunan,<sup>1</sup> on so-called Tang blue-and-white ware unearthed at Yangzhou,<sup>2</sup> and on a cosmetic box unearthed from a Tang tomb in Chenzhou, Hunan.<sup>3</sup> All of these specimens date from the ninth century.

Despite its relative rarity in China, this type of diamond-shaped floral design is frequently seen on Islamic pottery, and thus provides an interesting example of stylistic exchange between Chinese and Persian wares.<sup>4</sup>



No. 84 (Sc. 1:4)

<sup>1</sup> Feng Xianming 1960, 31, pl. 2; see above p. 236, fig. 9..

<sup>2</sup> Najing bowuyuan fajue 1977, pl. 2:1; see above p. 310, fig. 6.

<sup>3</sup> Lei Zigan 2000, 95, pl. 2:1.

<sup>4</sup> Lane 1947, pl. 8a; see above p. 236, fig. 8. See also nos 55, 57, 75, 76, 107–109.



No. 84 Top



No. 84



## Animal-shaped foot

Tang dynasty, 9th century  
Lead green-glazed ware  
North China  
L. 8.7 cm, w. 5.2 cm

Judging from its unglazed posterior, this moulded animal mask originally served as a leg of a vessel, probably of an incense burner or plate (cf. nos 283, 284). It is unique among the ceramics recovered from the Belitung wreck.

Animal-shaped feet are frequently seen on metalwares of the Tang dynasty, which influenced the production of ceramics. The most famous example of such wares is a ninth-century incense burner recovered from the crypt at Famensi in Fufeng, Shaanxi province.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Fomen mibao ta* 1994, pls 64, 65.



No. 85