

THE ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM

DEPARTMENT OF EASTERN ART
OXFORD OX1 2PH

Telephone (0865) 512651

Nov.26, 1985

Dear Mr. Sutton,

Herewith the sherds, and sorry about the delay.

ESV (15) looks as though it is Sasanian or early Islamic alkaline glazed ware, so too the two fragments AX St XII (4) & XX (4), and THA VIII (2).

THC XV (1) and THA VII/VI (4a) look as though they have a typical Iraqi Samarra body of the 9th-10th century AD, and the latter seems to have a splashed glaze which would go with the body.

Roger Moorey suggests that if you were to contact Catherine Mortimer at the Archaeological Research Lab in Keble Road and ask her to X-ray fluoresce the above sherds you might get a more accurate idea of date - lead glazes are not found in Iraq/Iran prior to the Islamic period, so any lead in any of these would argue strongly for an Islamic date. If you wanted another opinion on these I would take them to Dr. Oliver Watson in Ceramics at the V&A.

172/73 ST XIX (4) according to my colleague who curates the Chinese collection is a piece of Chinese celadon, which cannot be earlier than the 10th century and is more likely to be 14th.

About the rest I cannot say anything !

All good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Catharine Mortimer
Reserch Lab., Keble Road
Oxfor OX1 2PH



J. W. Allan

could do X-ray for lead
"in an afternoon".
SC 17-4 to contact