

The Ottomans | Exporting Luxury

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In addition to textiles, Ottoman ceramics were extremely popular on the export market. The rise of the ceramics industry in Iznik, so central to the history of art in Turkey, also created a powerful response in Europe. Iznik ceramics became so popular in European markets, in fact, that at one point the Sultan wrote an angry edict berating the potters of Iznik for producing wares for foreign consumers and not the Imperial palace!



Name:
Pair of candlesticks

Dynasty:
About hegira 936 / AD 1530 Ottoman

Details:
The British Museum
London, England, United Kingdom

Justification:
The form of these candlesticks derives from metalwork made for export to Italy.



Name:
Ewer

Dynasty:
About hegira 925 / AH 1520 Ottoman

Details:
Victoria and Albert Museum
London, England, United Kingdom

Justification:
This ewer was made in Iznik, but the silver mounts were added by the European owner.



Name:
Jug

Dynasty:
Hegira last quarter of the 10th century / AD last quarter of the 16th century Ottoman

Details:
Burrell Collection, Glasgow Museums
Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom

Justification:
Iznik ceramics like this jug were avidly collected by wealthy Europeans.



Name:
Dish

Dynasty:
Hegira around 1009 / AD around 1600 Ottoman

Details:

Museum of Mediterranean and Near Eastern Antiquities (Medelhavsmuseet)
Stockholm, Sweden

Justification:

Iznik potters sometimes looked to Italian ceramics for inspiration.



Name:

Plate

Dynasty:

Around hegira 1031–56 / AD 1625–50 Ottoman

Details:

Victoria and Albert Museum
London, England, United Kingdom

Justification:

This plate depicts a ship much like those that carried Iznik wares to Europe.
