

The export of spanish lustreware to North West Europe

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Abstract. Medieval pottery exported from Spain to North West Europe is divided into fine tin-glazed and coarse unglazed or lead-glazed wares and is found in contexts from the 13th to 15th century. Andalusian lustreware is known from some 20 sites in Britain and Valencian lustreware from 40. These are however mostly single finds denoting a luxury trade of both containers and decorative vessels. In the 13th and 14th centuries Spanish pottery was traded all round the North Sea to the Low Countries, North West Germany and Scandinavia but did not penetrate the Baltic till the 15th century. Coarse wares included large amphorae, red micaceous ware costreas and green-glazed bowls. By the 16th century the trade was dying out as North West Europe was by this time making its own maiolica so there was little market for imports.