

8 Indian Pottery

manufactured in Japan up to 16th century A.D.

There came what is called pottery with glaze. A good number of pottery wares with coloured glaze produced in Nara, Japan have been handed over from 8th century. Most of them are low fired lead glazes covered on the bowls with three colours, namely green, white and yellow. They resemble the wares of Tang Dynasty (618-922 A.D.) of China.

The pottery with lead glazes were manufactured till about 12th century and they were mostly of green monochrome, called "Oribe" in Japanese. These lead glazed pottery wares were mainly manufactured only at the Government-owned kilns in the neighbourhood of Nara and Kyoto in Japan, for the use of imperial courts or the Buddhist temples. For this reason, Shosein specimens are of great significance in the history of Japanese ceramic art as being the only relics in perfect forms that have been left from those days. The lead glazes were also applied on tiles and in this case only green glaze was used.

A number of trials were conducted to find out the method of producing porcelain similar to China's. One of these trials was that of one Kato of Seto, who visited China several times to learn the technique of manufacturing porcelain. But as the entire thing was kept as a secret he had to come back more than six times without learning anything. He could only succeed in getting the method of manufacturing porcelain from China in his seventh attempt. But the beginning of 16th century, which was the dawn period of pottery in Japan and end of 17th and early 18th century called "The EDO period" gave impetus to glazed pottery to a great extent, through the cultural activities like tea-ceremony and flower arrangements. As the first one was produced in the city of Seto, porcelain is also called as Seto-mono (a general term for glazed white pottery). The culture of producing good quality chinaware has been established round about the Seto city, viz. Nagoya, Tajimi, Tokaname, Yokkaichi which are famous for pottery wares.

Definition and Classification of Ceramics

Ceramics are made of earthen materials and mineral matter which give permanency to

