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WINGS OF OMAN



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Treasures from the National Museum: Oman and the Far East

In this edition of Wings of Oman, the National Museum's Director General, Jamal al-Moosawi, and the Head of Curatorial Unit, Moza al-Wardi, take a look at Oman's historic trading links with the Far East, and showcase a selection of elaborate stoneware jars that were used to store various goods during this period. (With photography by Saleh al-Ruzaqi/The National Museum).



Pear-shaped jar
Construction method: Thai kiln
Materials: Martaban-style glazed ceramic
Period: 10th century AH/16th century CE

The beauty of these stoneware jars belies their practical purpose as containers for transporting goods. In the Far East, such jars were often used to send wedding gifts, with the actual gift being their contents of ginger, fruit and other delicacies. In Oman, the jars themselves were highly valued as symbols of cross-cultural trade and seafaring prowess, and were prominently displayed in the alcoves and niches of forts, palaces and houses throughout the country.

The National Museum: Visitor Information

Telephone: (+968) 22081500

Facebook: NationalMuseumOman

Twitter: NM_OMAN

Instagram: NM_OMAN

E-mail: booking@nm.gov.om

The National Museum is open daily from 10:00am – 5:00pm (except on Fridays 2:00pm – 6:00pm). The ticket desk closes half an hour before the Museum's closing times.

Globular storage jar

Construction method: Thai kiln

Materials: Martaban-style ceramic with iron oxide glaze

Period: 10th century AH/16th century CE

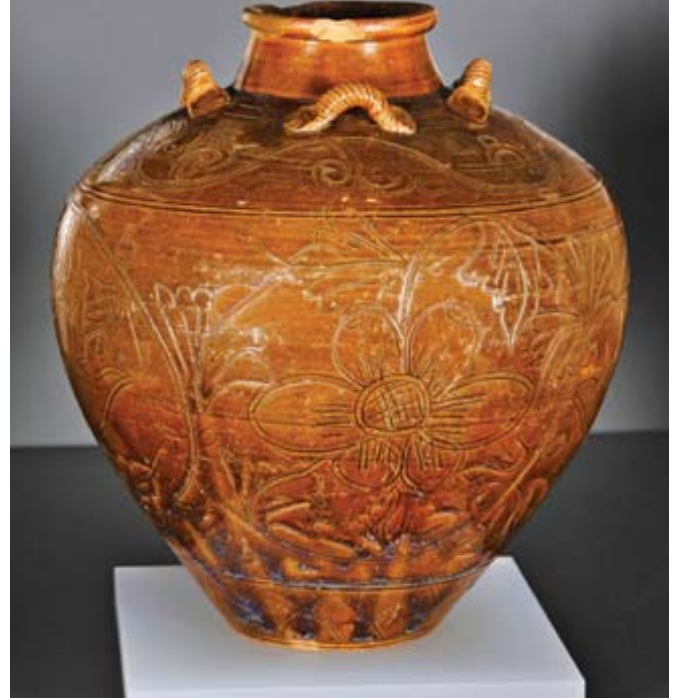


"Martaban style" jar

Origin: Vietnam

Materials: Glazed ceramic

Period: 10th – 11th centuries AH/16th – 17th centuries CE



"Martaban style" pear-shaped jar

Origin: Burmese kiln

Materials: Glazed ceramic

Period: 10th – 11th centuries AH/16th – 17th centuries CE

Details: These Martaban jars were presented by Chinese Emperor, Guangxu Emperor (Kuang-hsu Emperor) to Sultan Sayyid Faisal bin Turki al-Busaidi, between 1319–21 AH/1902–03 CE. The present consisted originally of Martaban jars containing delicate Chinese sauces (for food) – albeit never tried locally. Since then, the jars were kept in the Bait al-'Alam Palace as a decorative element and used by royal children to play and hide.

