

## **Reduced Pigment Lustres , Old Recipes, New Experiments**

**Pınar Çalışkan Güneş(Dokuz Eylül Üniversitesi), Sevim Çizer(Dokuz Eylül Üniversitesi)**

Lustre is metallic decoration, which results in a beautiful metallic shine and colored iridescence on the surface of glass and ceramic forms or tiles. Among the different ceramic techniques often termed as "lustre" the 'reduced-pigment luster' is made by applying pigments ( usually silver and copper compounds) mixed with clay or ochre to the surface of an already-fired glaze. These lustres were used prevalently from the 9th century until the 19th century and they are reduced pigment (clay-paste) lustres, which were, for the first time, used by Islamic artists on ceramics surfaces. Lustres expanded to Italy and Spain via North Africa, and they have gained recognition in Europe throughout the centuries. Golds, silvers and reflective reds have seized the imagination of makers and appreciators of ceramics for over 1200 years. Such work has been highly prized over centuries in many lands and cultures. Today, due to their specific characteristics, lustres have impressed many artists and they have taken a special place in the field of ceramic art.

In this study, clay-paste lustres prepared with copper, silver, bismuth and iron compounds were applied on glazes containing alkaline, tin and small amounts of lead, in order to obtain metallic and shiny luster effects on the glazed surfaces formed in low temperatures and in a reducing kiln atmosphere. Performing a comprehensive research on the technique of reduced pigment (clay-paste) lustres, traditional recipes by Cabir bin Hayyan, Muhammad al-Jawhar al-Nishapuri, Abul Kasim, Piccolpasso, were examined. According to the results that were found, deductions including some examples which were obtained from today's conditions and today's materials will be presented.

**Keywords:** Lustre, reduced pigment (clay-paste), ceramics.