

Tang-Dynasty and Nara-Period Jars

These two ceramic jars may look similar, but one is Japanese and one is of Chinese origin. Their bold coloring was created using lead-based glazes. The Japanese jar is the oldest extant example of an imitation three-color ware (known as *sancái* in Chinese) made in the eighth century. The other is a Tang dynasty (618–907) original from the seventh century, similar to ones which have been discovered in numerous tomb sites across China. The domestic jar, called Nara *sancái*, combines Chinese techniques with Japanese copper green glaze, demonstrating how Chinese technology was adapted.