

Three Kingdoms Ornaments

All of these objects were made in the Old Silla kingdom of Korea (57 BCE–668 CE) during the Three Kingdoms period, between approximately 500 and 600.

In the early 1970s and 1980s, excavations of tombs in Seorabul (today's Gyeongju), the capital of Silla, revealed that men and women in power resplendently adorned themselves. Their tombs were filled with luxurious accessories such as gold crowns, crown caps, rings, elaborately or simply decorated earrings, belts, bracelets, and necklaces made of gold, silver, and glass. Glass was considered just as precious as gold and silver because fabrication of it in Korea, most likely transmitted through trade on the Silk Road, was not yet fully developed. The ornaments shown in this case are examples of Old Silla jewelry-making traditions and techniques.



Belt with pendant ornament. *National Museum of Korea, National Treasure 192. Image copyright Cultural Heritage Administration of the Republic of Korea.*



드리개(허리띠 부분)
Girdle pendant
Approx. 500–600
Korea
Three Kingdoms period, Old Silla kingdom (57 BCE–668 CE)
Silver
Museum purchase, City Arts Trust Fund, 1991.220



굽은 옥(허리띠 드리개 부분)
Comma-shaped jewel for a girdle (gogok)
Approx. 500–600
Korea
Three Kingdoms period, Old Silla kingdom (57 BCE–668 CE)
Silver
Museum purchase, City Arts Trust Fund, 1991.215



물고기 모양 드리개(허리띠 부분)
Girdle pendant in the shape of a fish
Approx. 500–600
Korea
Three Kingdoms period, Old Silla kingdom (57 BCE–668 CE)
Silver
Museum purchase, City Arts Trust Fund, 1991.221



귀걸이
Pair of earrings
Approx. 500–600
Korea
Three Kingdoms period, Old Silla kingdom (57 BCE–668 CE)
Gold
Museum purchase, City Arts Trust Fund, 1991.214.1-.2



귀걸이
Pair of earrings
Approx. 500–600
Korea
Three Kingdoms period, Old Silla kingdom (57 BCE–668 CE)
Gold
Acquisition made possible by Korean Art and Culture Committee, 1991.227.1-.2



귀걸이
Pair of earrings
Approx. 500–600
Korea
Three Kingdoms period, Old Silla kingdom (57 BCE–668 CE)
Gold
Gift of Mrs. Koh Byung-Bok, 1991.191.1-.2

Three Kingdoms Ornaments



드리개(부분)

Beads

Approx. 500–600

Korea

Three Kingdoms period, Old Silla kingdom (57 BCE–668 CE)

Gold

Museum purchase, City Arts Trust Fund, 1991.217



드리개(부분)

Beads

Approx. 500–600

Korea

Three Kingdoms period, Old Silla kingdom (57 BCE–668 CE)

Gold

Museum purchase, City Arts Trust Fund, 1991.218



유리구슬 목걸이(부분)

Beaded necklace

Approx. 500–600

Korea

Three Kingdoms period, Old Silla kingdom (57 BCE–668 CE)

Glass

Museum purchase, 1992.222



유리구슬 목걸이(부분)

Beaded necklace

Approx. 500–600

Korea

Three Kingdoms period, Old Silla kingdom (57 BCE–668 CE)

Glass

Museum purchase, 1992.223

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THE GALLERY

Plain Celadons



연꽃 무늬 표주박 모양 주전자
Ewer in the shape of a gourd with lotus design
1100–1200
Korea
Goryeo dynasty (918–1392)
Stoneware with incised decoration under celadon glaze
The Avery Brundage Collection, B64P16



용 무늬 잔받침
Cup stand with dragon design
1100–1200
Korea
Goryeo dynasty (918–1392)
Stoneware with incised decoration under celadon glaze
The Avery Brundage Collection, B60P413



연꽃·나뭇가지 무늬 병
Vase with lotus design
1100–1200
Korea
Goryeo dynasty (918–1392)
Stoneware with celadon glaze
The Avery Brundage Collection, B60P16+



기름병
Oil jar with lid
1100–1200
Korea
Goryeo dynasty (918–1392)
Stoneware with celadon glaze
Gift of the Asian Art Museum Foundation, B67P49.a-.b



정병(부처님께 올리는 맑은 물을 담는 병)
Ritual ewer (*kundika*)
1100–1200
Korea
Goryeo dynasty (918–1392)
Stoneware with celadon glaze
Gift of the Asian Art Museum Foundation, B67P2



주전자
Ewer
1100–1200
Korea
Goryeo dynasty (918–1392)
Stoneware with celadon glaze
Gift of the Asian Art Museum Foundation, B67P50.a-.b



연꽃잎 무늬 대접
Bowl with lotus-petal design
1100–1200
Korea
Goryeo dynasty (918–1392)
Stoneware with carved decoration under celadon glaze
The Avery Brundage Collection, B60P1204



꽃 무늬 잔
Cup with floral design
1100–1150
Korea
Goryeo dynasty (918–1392)
Stoneware with incised decoration under celadon glaze
The Avery Brundage Collection, B60P1501

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여의주 무늬 합(뚜껑 있는 그릇)
Lidded box with wish-granting jewel (yeo'uiju) design
 1100-1200
 Korea
 Goryeo dynasty (918-1392)
 Stoneware with carved and incised decoration under celadon glaze
The Avery Brundage Collection, B67P45.a-.b



용머리 거북이몸 모양 연적(먹을 갈 때 물을 담아 두는 그릇)
Water dropper in the shape of a turtle with dragon's head
 1100-1200
 Korea
 Goryeo dynasty (918-1392)
 Stoneware with celadon glaze
Gift of the Asian Art Museum Foundation, B67P3



연꽃 무늬 병
Lidded bottle with lotus design
 1100-1200
 Korea
 Goryeo dynasty (918-1392)
 Stoneware with incised decoration under celadon glaze
Gift of the Asian Art Museum Foundation, B67P46.a-.b



꽃 무늬 대접
Bowl with floral design
 1100-1150
 Korea
 Goryeo dynasty (918-1392)
 Stoneware with carved decoration under celadon glaze
The Avery Brundage Collection, B65P61



참외 모양 주전자
Ewer in the shape of a melon
 1100-1200
 Korea
 Goryeo dynasty (918-1392)
 Stoneware with carved decoration under celadon glaze
The Avery Brundage Collection, B60P21+



연꽃 무늬 대접
Bowl with lotus design
 1100-1150
 Korea
 Goryeo dynasty (918-1392)
 Stoneware with carved decoration under celadon glaze
Gift of the Asian Art Museum Foundation, B67P69



연꽃 • 모란 무늬 참외 모양 주전자
Ewer in the shape of a melon with lotus and peony designs
 1100-1200
 Korea
 Goryeo dynasty (918-1392)
 Stoneware with carved decoration under celadon glaze
The Avery Brundage Collection, B65P71



모란넝쿨 무늬 퇴주기(침을 뱉는 그릇)
Spittoon with peony design
 1100-1200
 Korea
 Goryeo dynasty (918-1392)
 Stoneware with carved and incised decoration under celadon glaze
The Avery Brundage Collection, B60P1205



대나무 무늬 병
Bottle with bamboo design
 1150-1200
 Korea
 Goryeo dynasty (918-1392)
 Stoneware with carved and fluted decoration under celadon glaze
Gift of the Asian Art Museum Foundation, B67P65

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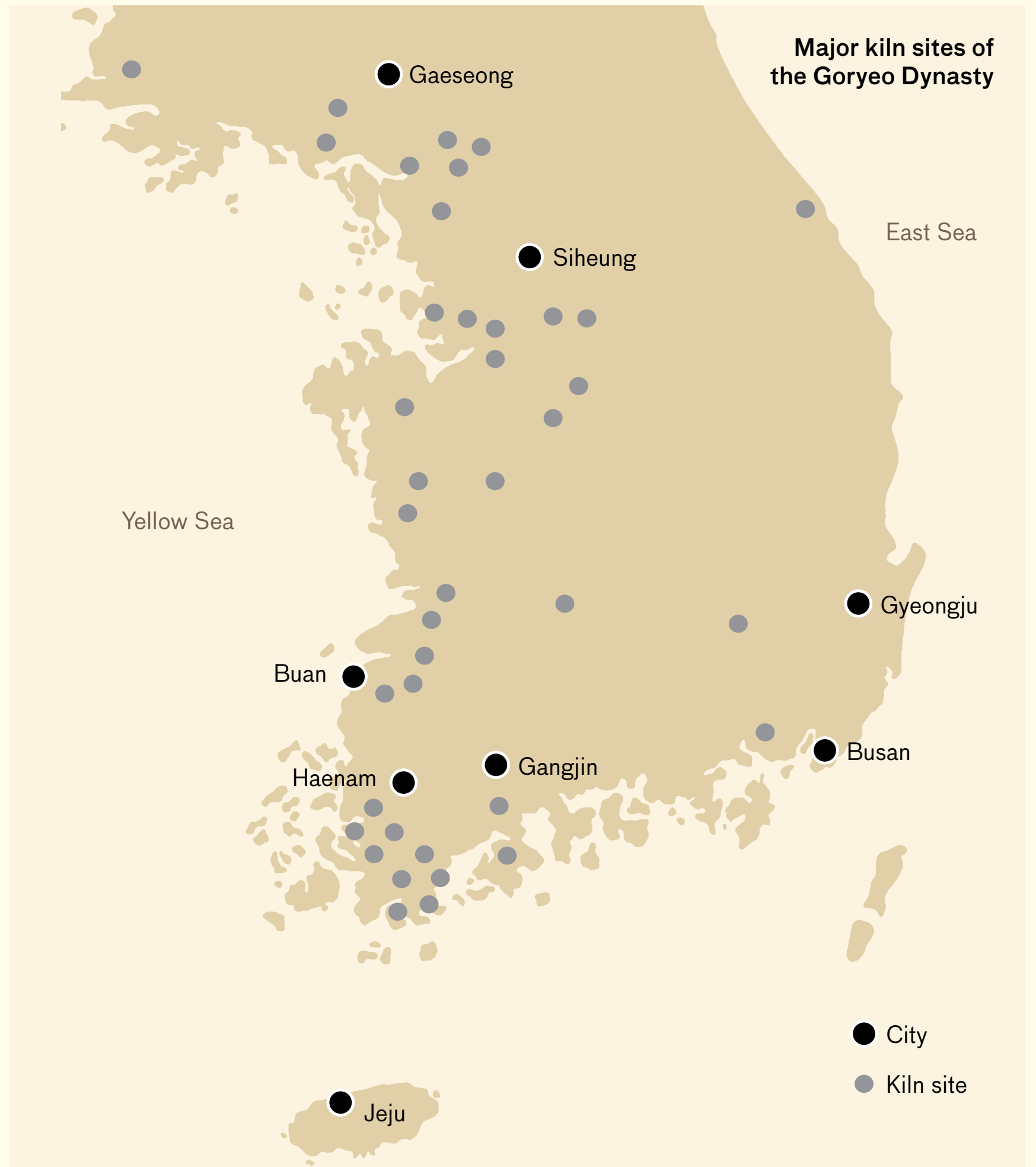
Plain Celadons

Goryeo dynasty (918–1392) blue-green glazed wares, called *cheongja* in Korean, have been held in the highest esteem since their first appearance in the late ninth century. These wares are popularly known to the Western world as celadons, a class of ceramics with a distinctive pale bluish-green glaze, varying slightly in color from culture to culture. The initial production of celadon was closely related to Seon (Zen) Buddhist philosophy and popular tea culture, which were widespread among the court, the aristocracy, and Buddhist monks. Tea culture was not only ingrained in national and religious rites, but also was a part of people's daily lives. Representing the core principles of Goryeo aesthetics and belief, celadons offer important clues to understanding people's lifestyles of the time.

By the early twelfth century, Korean potters had discovered the secret to creating celadons and were making objects that not only followed Chinese imperial wares but improved upon them. In fact, in 1123 an emissary from the Chinese imperial court praised the beauty of the jade-colored glaze and the elegant forms of these Korean ceramics. During the twelfth century, a wide variety of celadons were produced for ritual and everyday practices, including inkstones, water droppers, brush stands, *kundikas*, roof tiles, teacups, bowls, dishes, and more.

Plain (non-inlaid) celadons are displayed in this case, showing various techniques: incising, impressing, molding, embossing, and openwork. Although all these works are categorized as celadons, the variable conditions in firing created glaze colors across a wide spectrum, from dark green to light blue. Goryeo ceramics were fired in high-temperature reduction kilns with chamber compartments that were installed on slopes. Producing celadons required a high level of technical sophistication and extreme care. As noted by the scholar Yi Gyubo (1168–1241), only one out of ten of these wares met the extremely high standards of the Goryeo court.

Please see the digital tablet nearby for more information about the process of making Goryeo celadon.



Innovation in Ceramics: Inlaid (Sanggam) Celadons

The blue-green glazed wares on view in this case, known as celadons, show an inlay technique called *sanggam* in Korean. Potters carve designs or patterns into the surfaces of the vessels and then fill in the carved areas with different colors of clay. White clay remains white after firing, while red ocher turns dark brown or black. After firing at a low temperature, around 800–900 degrees Celsius, glaze is applied, and the vessel is fired again at around 1250 degrees Celsius.

The inlay technique came into fashion in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, during the Goryeo dynasty (918–1392). It was used to create motifs including those found in this case, for example, chrysanthemums and willow trees. The technique was not only used to decorate celadons, but was also applied in other craftworks, such as mother-of-pearl lacquerwares and metalworks. Some scholars say the rise in popularity of inlaid celadons during the military regime of the thirteenth century was due to the officers' preference for sophisticated and elaborate decoration over simple design.



A design is carved and filled with white clay and red ocher.

The excess white clay or red ocher is scraped off to make the surface smooth.

The vessel undergoes bisque (pre-glaze) firing.

Celadon glaze is applied.

The vessel is fired a second time.

Photos from Goryeo Celadon, National Museum of Korea, 2013.



국화 • 모란 무늬 뚜껑 있는 네 귀 달린 항아리
Jar with chrysanthemum and peony design

Approx. 1200–1300

Korea

Goryeo dynasty (918–1392)

Stoneware with inlaid decoration under celadon glaze

The Avery Brundage Collection, B64P55



국화 • 버드나무 무늬 네 귀 달린 항아리
Jar with chrysanthemum and willow tree design

Approx. 1200–1300

Korea

Goryeo dynasty (918–1392)

Stoneware with inlaid decoration under celadon glaze

The Avery Brundage Collection, B65P67



석류 • 국화 무늬 대접

Bowl with persimmons and chrysanthemum design

Approx. 1200–1300

Korea

Goryeo dynasty (918–1392)

Stoneware with inlaid decoration under celadon glaze

The Avery Brundage Collection, B60P400



석류 • 국화 무늬 대접

Bowl with persimmons and chrysanthemum design

Approx. 1150–1300

Korea

Goryeo dynasty (918–1392)

Stoneware with inlaid decoration under celadon glaze

Gift of the Asian Art Museum Foundation, B67P59

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국화 무늬 잔과 받침
Stand for cup with chrysanthemum design
 Approx. 1150–1300
 Korea
 Goryeo dynasty (918–1392)
 Porcelain with inlaid decoration under celadon glaze
The Avery Brundage Collection, B66P39.a



국화 무늬 잔
Cup with chrysanthemum design
 Approx. 1150–1300
 Korea
 Goryeo dynasty (918–1392)
 Porcelain with inlaid decoration under celadon glaze
The Avery Brundage Collection, B66P39.b



국화 무늬 그릇
Lidded box with chrysanthemum design
 Approx. 1150–1300
 Korea
 Goryeo dynasty (918–1392)
 Stoneware with inlaid and copper-oxide decoration under celadon glaze
Gift of Mr. Namkoong Ryun, 2002.19.a-.b



국화 • 나비 • 학 무늬 표주박 모양 주전자
Ewer in the shape of a gourd with chrysanthemum, butterfly, and crane design
 Approx. 1150–1300
 Korea
 Goryeo dynasty (918–1392)
 Stoneware with inlaid decoration under celadon glaze
The Avery Brundage Collection, B64P57



국화 • 학 • 구름 무늬 마상배(말 위에서 쓰는 잔)
Stemmed cup with chrysanthemum, crane, and cloud design
 Approx. 1150–1300
 Korea
 Goryeo dynasty (918–1392)
 Stoneware with inlaid decoration under celadon glaze
Gift of Arthur J. McTaggart, 1999.5.78



국화 무늬 병
Bottle with chrysanthemum design
 Approx. 1150–1300
 Korea
 Goryeo dynasty (918–1392)
 Stoneware with inlaid decoration under celadon glaze
The Avery Brundage Collection, B64P51



국화 무늬 병
Bottle with chrysanthemum design
 Approx. 1150–1300
 Korea
 Goryeo dynasty (918–1392)
 Stoneware with inlaid decoration under celadon glaze
The Avery Brundage Collection, B60P1792



나무 무늬 정병(부처님께 올리는 맑은 물을 담는 병)
Ritual ewer (*kundika*) with tree design
 Approx. 1150–1300
 Korea
 Goryeo dynasty (918–1392)
 Stoneware with inlaid decoration under celadon glaze
The Avery Brundage Collection, B60P380.a-.b

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