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The superb skill of the Sung craftsmen is better revealed in ceramics than in jade.

The white porcelain bowl is in ting ware, so thin that it is translucent; a nearly invisible design of dragons and clouds is molded into it.

The delicate green color of celadon, as in the jar displayed here, is said to be an attempt to imitate the color of jade. However, dark-and-light effects like the floral design on this piece are possible only when working in a glazed ceramic medium.

The third of the ceramic bowls, in the type of porcelain called chien or (in Japanese) tenmoku ware, was made for use in the tea ceremony which Ch'an (Zen) Buddhist monks originally developed during the Sung Dynasty. It illustrates well the Sung taste for elegant simplicity.

The jade bowl, by contrast, is quite ordinary. It cannot compare with either the contemporary porcelain examples or the exquisite jade products of the Chou and Ch'ing.

Specimens left to right:

Celadon jar	127146 (D)
<u>Chien</u> teacup	127011 (D)
Jade bowl	183345 (A)
<u>Ting</u> bowl	127131 (D)

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