

The American Museum of Natural
History New York City.

Pottery -

"The pottery manufacturers of China fall
into 2 main divisions: earthenware &
porcelains.

Ordinary earthenware is made of clay
properly tempered & baked in a kiln.
In China, pottery vessels even the earliest
known forms, were made with the aid
of the potter's wheel, 2 examples in this
hall. It is probable that the earliest
vessels were first built up by coiling
& then turned & polished on a wheel.
The vessels of later times were given
form by throwing on a rapidly driven
wheel.

Porcelain vessels are made of a
peculiar white clay called kaolin
combined with silica in the form
of a feldspathic rock. Under the
heat of the kiln the kaolin becomes
a rigid porous mass, & the silica,
transparent glass filling these pores.
The result, porcelain, is judged by the
Chinese mainly by its fineness of

-4- glass manufactures

"The Chinese who first secured glass from the Mediterranean region, are inclined to cut & polish the material rather than mould it when rendered plastic by an application of heat. By the use of a variety of oxides of metals such as iron, copper & lead, they produce a great variety of colors, & are able to imitate jade, agate, malachite, amber & coral."

Mirrors

"Mirror made in Hu chou, Cheh kiang Province, according to the seal inscribed on the knob - The subject is an imitation of the astrological mirrors in vogue during the T'ang dynasty; the 4 animals of the cardinal points, the 8 trigrams of divination, & the 12 animals of the zodiac - Two of the trigrams are in the outer zone - Ming dynasty"