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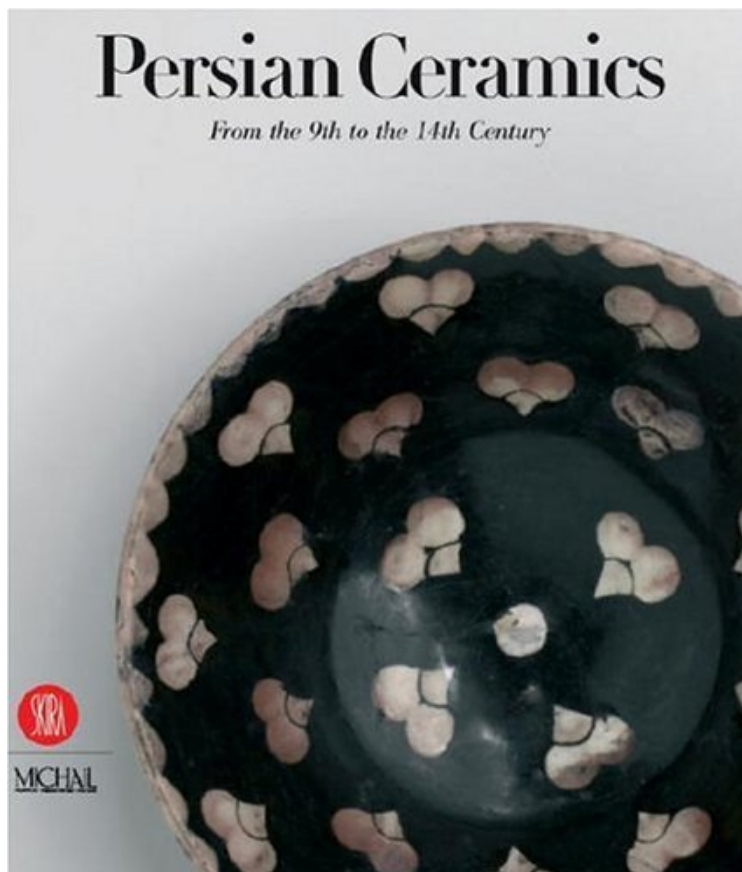
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About the Author Giovanni Curatola is professor of archaeology and history of Islamic art at the University of Udine. He also teaches at the Catholic University in Milan and the Kore University in Enna. He is an extensive traveler and

expert on the Near and Middle East. He has held conferences and seminars in London, New York, Saint Petersburg, and other parts of the world.