If pots resembling those from China were found on Mars, which is more probable, two separate inventions on two planets, or interplanetary travel? But the fact that certainty is unattainable does not mean that comparison is pointless. It can help us assess probabilities: the New World is not Mars, but it is a long way from China and Mesopotamia. More important, comparison has much to teach us about artistic invention. Design, we cannot doubt, is part of what it is to be human (and Martian?).