

**13. CHICKEN-HEADED EWER**

Dong Son culture, 1st–3rd century A.D.

Stoneware, H: 14.5 cm × D: 18.3 cm

National Museum of Vietnamese History, Ha Noi, LSb 15062

The production of ceramics in Chinese style for Han tombs occurred in Viet Nam during the first to third centuries A.D., but the vessels produced were never exact copies of the originals. The fine clay of the Hong River delta is distinguishable from the coarser clay used for Chinese ceramics of the period, and the Vietnamese modified the Chinese shapes. The chicken ewer (*chiao hu* in Chinese) provides a good example of the changes that were effected.

The everted feet, the ring around the body, and the flat, rectangular handle differ from the Chinese form, though the angle of this handle more closely approximates the 45 degrees found on Chinese ewers than on other Vietnamese examples, where it lies flatter. This type of container is found only in southern China, not in Eastern Han sites, and one is

reminded of the greater affinities of southern Chinese culture to northern Viet Nam during this early period. The vegetal ash glaze, which tended to run and did not adhere well, contained lime and turned a creamy white with greenish highlights.<sup>16</sup> The glaze has only been applied to the upper portion of the body, and the random patches of glaze above the head and on the handle are fortuitously placed. The head and legs were hand-formed and the handle was cut from a slab, then built onto the body of the vessel.

