

86a. STORAGE JAR

Cham, Cu Lao Cham shipwreck, late 15th century
Earthenware, H: 72 cm × D: 24 cm (mouth); D: 35 cm (bottom)
National Museum of Vietnamese History, Ha Noi, LSB 24701

This heavy covered jar was turned on a wheel; no evidence exists to indicate that it was thrown in more than one piece. Since a number of these jars were found together in the Cu Lao Cham shipwreck, this lid may not be the original one, as it fits quite loosely. The jar is devoid of decoration except for the three ridges on the upper shoulder and the single ridge on the lid that is surmounted by a handle. Unlike the northern Vietnamese cargo of the ship, it had probably been loaded with foodstuff for the crew's use.

The inclusion of jars of this type in the Cu Lao Cham shipwreck is of importance, as it indicates that the ship had put into port on Cu Lao Cham Island before it sank. Thus, the storage jar is evidence for both the continued production of ceramic vessels in this region and the continuing use of this island port as a supply station for passing ships. The fact that the ship had docked and departed further tells us that its cargo was destined for distant lands.

