

**86m. DOUBLE-GOURD JAR**

Cu Lao Cham shipwreck, late 15th century

Chu Dau kiln, Stoneware, H: 18.4 cm

Viet Nam National Fine Arts Museum, 5492 G2 1997

The double gourd is one of the attributes of the Eight Immortals of Taoist belief and signifies longevity, as do all the attributes of the Eight Immortals. The potter who fabricated this gourd further ensured the meaning of the vessel by alternating crossed swords and flower baskets (two more attributes) around the upper bulge of the vessel. Lotuses are another of the attributes of the Eight Immortals, and a row of lotus petals encircles the shoulder above the vine, which contains a flower and a skylark in flight on the lower bulbous portion of the gourd. The bird is a typical motif of the Chu Dau kilns and is found on some of the smallest of the vessels as well.

