

86n. FEMALE FIGURE

Cu Lao Cham shipwreck, late 15th century

Stoneware, H: 38.5 cm

National Museum of Vietnamese History, Ha Noi, LSb 24561

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The hole may have a technical explanation; it may have been punctured in order to let hot air escape during firing.

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Nancy Hock [Tingley], "A Reassessment of the Terminal Date for Si Satchanalai Production"; Nancy Hock [Tingley], ed., *Thai Ceramics: The James and Elaine Connell Collection* (Kuala Lumpur: Oxford University Press, 1993), 88.

The artist has given a great deal of attention to the painting of the garments this female figure wears. Abstract cloud motifs found in the scarf over the mantle on her shoulders are echoed in the cloud motifs decorating her hair ornaments. The container she carries has a hole in it that suggests the figure may have been an incense holder, or it may have supported a lid, but with nothing in the way, we are able to see the phoenix badge that marks her chest.³⁰ In addition to the fine painting of the textiles, the molded figure wears appliquéd motifs applied to the elaborate hair, the necklace, and ears. While today the blue underglaze makes up most of the decoration, the remnants of green, red, and gold overglaze indicate the richness of adornment that was originally applied to the surface. The figure is dressed in Chinese-style clothing and may have been intended for Chinese living in insular Southeast Asia. The Thais also produced Chinese figures for export.³¹

LITERATURE

Co Vat Viet Nam (Vietnamese Antiquities), 2003; Lambrecht and Schicklgruber, *Vietnam: Art et cultures de la préhistoire à nos jours (Vietnam: Art and culture from prehistoric times to the present)*, 2003.

