



Yingqing funerary urn

Date

c. 960-1126 CE

Primary Maker

Unknown artist, Chinese

Medium

Stoneware with qingbai glaze

Description

Yingqing is a type of Chinese ceramic produced primarily during the Song dynasty, lasting from 960 to 1126 A.D., in the town of Jingdezhen in the Jiangxi province. Yingqing translates roughly to “shadowy blue” and is named for its distinctive glaze, typically ranging in color from bluish gray to bluish green. This type of ceramic was widely popular and was commonly used in the form of vases, ewers, stem cups, and funerary urns such as these. Vessels of this kind were always made in pairs and filled with grain, probably rice, prior to being placed in a tomb. Their contents were intended to sustain the deceased in the afterlife. The decoration on these urns includes rows of mourners, some of which bow in supplication. Dragons modeled in high relief circumnavigate the urns among stylized clouds and animals. Moons project from the sides of the urns, which are in turn topped by lids with birds as handles (SOURCE: Wellin Museum permanent collection label, Summer 2016).

Dimensions

Overall: 30 3/4 × 13 in. (78.1 × 33 cm) Overall (with Lid height): 37 1/2 × 13 in. (95.3 × 33 cm)