

Basic Detail Report



Bowl

Date

early 18th century

Medium

jadite

Description

The union of the tortoise and the snake symbolizes the north and the Black Emperor. Unlike other directions, the north was never worshipped in pre-dynastic times because it was feared to be the home of the destructive god of the ocean wind. The Han rulers declared that they ruled under the protection of water and the north, and so sacrificed to the Black Emperor. Note the presence of these two creatures on the base of the sculpture of Zhenwu, Lord of the North Cardinal Point (91.0302).

Dimensions

Overall: 1 3/8 x 4 13/16 in. (3.5 x 12.2 cm)