Finch & Co



CHINESE MEDICINE OR WATER BOTTLE 'HULU'

A CHINESE MEDICINE OR WATER BOTTLE 'HULU'
IN THE FORM OF A SHAPED AND POLISHED GOURD WITH A CARVED IVORY STOPPER AND RING FOR THE CORD TIE. AN OLD LABEL TO THE BASE
OLD SMOOTH GLASSY PATINA
18TH CENTURY
SIZE: 16.5CM HIGH – 6½ INS HIGH

LITERATURE

GOURDS HAVE LONG BEEN USED IN CHINA AS CONTAINERS FOR MEDICINE AND LIQUIDS, FOR CRICKET CAGES AND FOR TOYS. THE GOURD SYMBOLISES LONGEVITY AND IS A TALISMAN THAT CAN WARD OFF EVIL. THE DAOIST FIGURE LI TIEQUAI IS SHOWN HOLDING A DOUBLE GOURD IN HIS HAND, WHICH IS SOMETIMES DEPICTED WITH SMOKE CURLING FROM ITS MOUTH. THIS IS VARIOUSLY ASCRIBED TO A POTENT MEDICINE WITHIN THE CONTAINER, OR TO THE FREEING OF DEITY'S SPIRIT FROM HIS BODY.