



Chinese polychrome figure of Li Tie-guai, Qianlong (1736-95) POA

Chinese polychrome figure of Li Tie-guai, Qianlong (1736-95), the immortal standing with his right foot raised, holding a bottle gourd in his left hand and leaning on his crutch, wearing a long pink tunic and overcoat with large prunus blossoms on a black ground and tied with a yellow belt

Condition: Break to base and left foot neatly restored

Notes: The Eight Immortals are a legendary group of Daoist figures said to have lived during the Tang or Song dynasties, and appear as a group on artwork dating back to the Jin dynasty, though evidence survives suggesting that worship of individual Daoist immortal figures was prevalent during the Han. The immortal depicted here is Li Tieguai???, associated with medicine and easing the suffering of the sick, identifiable by his calabash bottle. The others are Lu Dongbin???, a scholar and poet considered the leader of the immortals; Zhongli Quan???, associated with death and said to be able to produce precious metals; Cao Guojiu???, said to be related to a Song dynasty emperor in his mortal life, generally depicted in official robes and holding 'paiban' (traditional Chinese clappers), regarded as the patron deity of the performing arts; Zhang Guolao???, usually depicted carrying a fish drum (a tube-shaped bamboo drum with two iron striking rods); Han Xiangzi???, a flautist; He Xiangnu???, a female immortal often depicted holding a lotus; and Lan Caihe???, originally depicted in female form, the patron deity of florists and gardeners.

Material and Technique

Porcelain with overglaze enamel decoration in the famille verte palette

Origin

Chinese

Period

18th Century

Dimensions

Height: 22.8cm. (9in.)

Antique ref: X217