

The Porcelain Octagonal Vase and Related Issues in the Late Tang and Five Dynasties Period

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Abstract

The basic feature of the porcelain octagonal vase in the late Tang and Five Dynasties is that the long neck, belly and neck are decorated with eight raised ridges, and there are also those with no decoration and a round belly. This article first sorts out the relevant materials of the octagonal vase, focusing on the Yue kiln celadon octagonal vase specimens unearthed at the Housiao kiln site at Shanglin Lake, Zhejiang, in recent years, as well as the two newly discovered Xing kiln white porcelain octagonal vases. Furthermore, it discusses the decoration of the octagonal vase and considers that its shape comes from Islamic glassware. The focus is on the function and cultural connotation of the octagonal vase. It is believed that it is closely related to Buddhism and may have been used as a "perfume vase," "seven-treasure vase" and "purifying vase." Combined with the image *Tanghou xingcong tu* 唐後行從圖 and tomb mural materials, it demonstrates that octagonal vases were used as a cleansing and ceremonial utensil in secular life to wash and add fragrance. Finally, it is pointed out that porcelains in the shape of octagonal vases also appeared at the Ru kiln and among Goryeo celadons in later generations, which deserves attention.

Keywords: Octagonal vase, Yue Kiln, Xing Kiln, Buddhism, glassware, perfume bottle