



Li Tieguai

Date

mid 19th - early 20th Century

Medium

Wood

Description

Li Tieguai is one of the Eight Immortals, legendary figures from the Taoist tradition. According to legend, Li Tieguai's spirit had the ability to travel outside of his body. On one such occasion, his body was found and cremated as he was presumed to be dead. Li Tieguai had no choice but to inhabit the body of a deceased beggar. Originally, he was depicted in this sculpture with a gourd in his right hand. Unfortunately, this hand and gourd were lost over time. Like the spirit of Li Tieguai, this sculpture has traveled far. It was brought by a Chinese sailor from China to Sydney, Australia via freighter. It was sold to James Tyrrell, a well-known bookseller and curio shop proprietor. The collector

purchased it there in 1930 and brought it to the United States where it now has a final home at the Bowers Museum.

Dimensions

17 x 6 x 5 1/4 in. (43.2 x 15.2 x 13.3 cm) In stand: 18 1/2 x 6 x 8 1/2 in. (47 x 15.2 x 21.6 cm)