

CENSER

Decorated in blue with four phoenixes in the upper zones and four dragons soaring in clouds above the ocean—both in this case being emblems of fecundity. A dedicatory inscription states that Fang I-kien, a native of Lo-p'ing in Jao-chou fu, Kiangsi Province, who lived under the Ming, had no son from his two wives née Li and Ma, that he had this censer made and dedicated to a temple in Peking for the purpose of obtaining a son.

MING PERIOD (1368-1643)

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