

CAST-IRON VASE

With movable rings for holding and carrying the vessel. It is patterned after the typical Han vases of bronze and pottery (see exhibits on opposite side), and is provided on the bottom with an inscription consisting of three raised characters (see adjoining plaster cast). It reads, "*I hou wang,*" which means, "May it be serviceable to the lords!" This is a typical formula of the Han period (compare the inscription on the stove), and the characters are in Han style of writing.

From Grave in Shensi Province