

Basic Detail Report

Ornament

Date

1575-1625

Medium

Copper

Description

The upper part represents a raptorial bird, probably the peregrine falcon, but its tail has been elongated and resembles the tail of the rattlesnake. Images of celestial birds and monstrous reptiles used to represent the oppositional cosmic powers of Sky and Underworld, and they were believed to be the ancestors of the ruling dynasties. - T. Brasser

Dimensions

Overall: 13 3/4 × 2 1/2 in. (34.9 × 6.4 cm)