

The 8 Immortals – Burrell Collection

The Eight Immortals continue to be as much an important part of the popular imagery of China as they are Taoist deities. The idea is that the human body served as the abode of souls that would separate after death and disperse to various places. The names of them, according to the generally accepted version, are as follows: Li Tieguai, Cao Guojiu, Han Xiangzi, Zhongli Quan, Lü Dongbin, Zhang Guolao, Lan Caihe and He Xiangu.

Made: China, Jingdezhen - Qing Dynasty, Kangxi period, 1662-1722

Each immortal carries a special auspicious object which identifies them and each has a special ability.

1. Li Tieguai is represented by a gourd-bottle;
2. Cao Guojiu is represented by castanets;
3. Han Xiangzi is represented by a flute;
4. Zhongli Quan is represented by a fan;
5. Lü Dongbin is represented by a sword;
6. Zhang Guolao is represented by a tube-shaped bamboo drum;
7. Lan Caihe is represented by a basket of flowers;
8. He Xiangu is represented by a lotus stalk.

38.835 Lan Caihe
38.834 Zhang Guolao
38.833 Lu Dongbin
38.832 Zhongli Quan
38.831 Han Xiangzi
38.830 Cao Guojiu
38.829 Li Tieguai
38.836 He Xiangu

