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Tang Presentation Vessel  
(618-907 A.D.)

The design of ceramic wares during the Tang Dynasty was closely linked with that of the Tang metalwork which, influenced by Hellenistic forms, constituted something of a mania among the nobility of the day. Tang sancai wares were first fired at 1000 degrees Celsius and the biscuit was then carefully re-fired with a glaze at about 900 degrees Celsius. Sancai glazes consisted of a basic lead along with coloring agents, which were chiefly iron, copper and manganese compounds. This particular vessel was finished with this method.

It is made in the shape of a teapot with molded dragons and mythical animals. It was made in Henan Province and believed to be from Shaanxi. Material from the firings dates it to about twelve hundred years old.