



Openwork tsuba with scene of Rishi (Laozi) and reclining ox

Date

Edo period, 18th century

Medium

Iron

Description

Rishi (Lao Tsu), the Chinese saintly philosopher; with his buffalo and flute, having a vision of heavenly destination -- or, maybe just a rural scene. Marubori-sukashi style of work. This piece is cast iron. The rim is cracked, as would

happen with cast iron, but not with wrought iron.

Dimensions

2 3/4 × 2 5/8 inches (7 × 6.7 cm)