



Seated Kubera (Jambhala)

Date

8-9th century

Medium

Bronze

Description

This superbly cast image of the God of Wealth, despite its small size, conveys an engaging sense of monumentality. Typical of the iconography of the deity is his depiction as a corpulent young man, attired in royal raiment that consists of a short "dhoti" (skirt), rich jewelry, elaborate coiffure and diadem. Seated in the pose of royal ease, the deity holds his attributes of a lemon in the right hand and

a purse in the left. The elegant modeling and the crispness and intact condition of its finely chased details makes this an outstanding example of sculpture produced by the metal workers of Central Java in the eighth and ninth centuries. In Central Java, small bronze images of the God of Wealth were immensely popular, and the deity was worshipped by both Buddhists (who call him Jambhala) and Hindus (who refer to him as Kuvera). Because the conventions for his depiction were identical in both religions at this time and in this region, it is nearly impossible to identify him more specifically without knowledge of the sculpture's original context.

Dimensions

Height: 4 3/4 inches (12 cm)