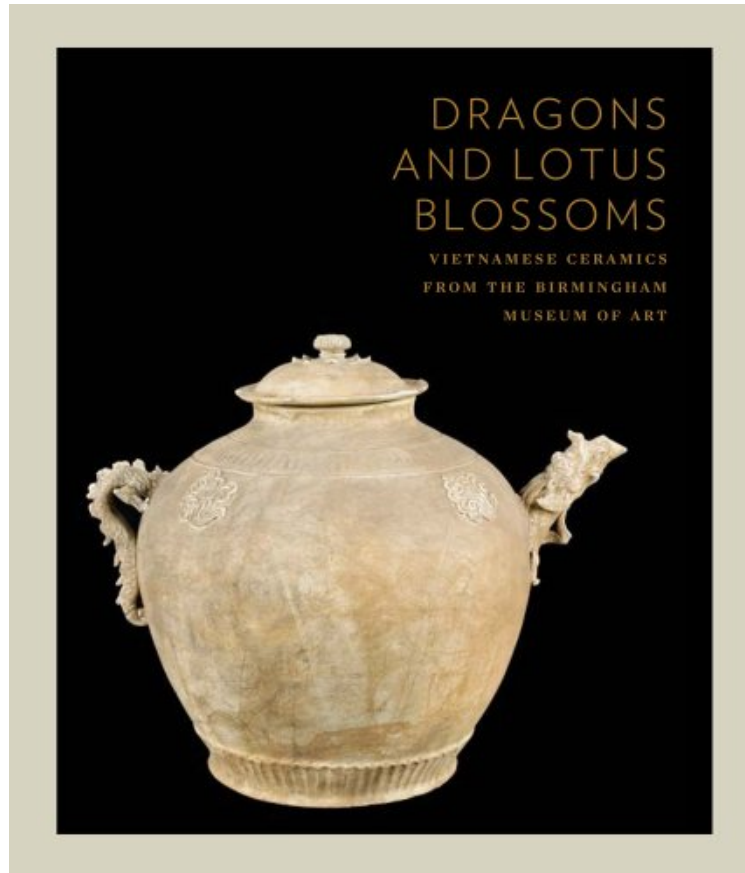


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[Download free ebook] Dragons and Lotus Blossoms: Vietnamese Ceramics from the Birmingham Museum of Art

## **Dragons and Lotus Blossoms: Vietnamese Ceramics from the Birmingham Museum of Art**

**John A. Stevenson, Donald A. Wood : Dragons and Lotus Blossoms: Vietnamese Ceramics from the Birmingham Museum of Art** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dragons and Lotus Blossoms: Vietnamese Ceramics from the Birmingham Museum of Art:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A FINE BOOK, BEAUTIFULLY ORGANIZEDBy Dr. Mark RapoportI am a collector of Vietnamese ceramics, and this book is at the very top of the list of my favorites on the subject. It is a slimmer volume than two other recent books on the subject, but its organization makes the difference. The first 30 pages are a fine introduction to Vietnamese ceramics, to Viet Nam in general, and to design elements. Comparisons and contrasts to the better-known ceramics of China add perspective. The rest of the book explores major types of ware, categorized largely by glaze types. Each type is given it's own section, and each section starts with a short introduction. The explanations are clear, and the photographs are excellent. The captions for each object are always adjacent to the photos (often, more than one view of a given piece). This book can serve at least three purposes for readers - to be read right through, as an introduction to the field; to be referred to in an effort to identify a given

piece; and to reacquaint one's self with a given type before viewing an exhibition or when considering a possible purchase. I recommend it highly for both established collectors and persons new to the field. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Vietnamese ceramic collectors need this book. By Customer Outstanding, much useful information in an area with a two thousand year old ceramic tradition, highly recommended.

Vietnam created the most sophisticated ceramics in Southeast Asia. Though they borrowed from China, Vietnamese potters explored their own indigenous tastes and developed their own production techniques. Blessed with the smooth gray-white clays of the Red River Valley, they created pieces that are amazingly light and thin-walled, with skillfully painted, incised, and carved decoration. Two particularly popular decorative themes were dragons (from whom the Vietnamese believed they were descended) and lotuses (considered archetypal symbols of Buddhist purity, because the flower emerges unsullied from the mud). Through a series of judicious purchases that began in the 1970s, the Birmingham Museum of Art, Alabama, has created an extraordinary collection of Vietnamese ceramic art. Essays by three noted experts introduce the collection.

"It is a splendid collection of Vietnamese ceramics and a delightful catalogue for ceramic enthusiasts, indispensable for collectors and researchers of Southeast Asian ceramics alike." Brigitte Borell, IAS Newsletter, Spring 2013. About the Author: John Stevenson, co-author of *Vietnamese Ceramics: A Separate Tradition*, describes the evolution of Vietnamese ceramics and the contexts in which they were produced, and analyzes their aesthetic attraction. The Museum's senior curator, Donald A. Wood, explains the rich symbolism of decorative motifs found on Vietnamese ceramics. Independent scholar Philippe Truong, of Paris and Saigon, assesses the current state of the field.