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SRIWIJAYA: the Great Indonesian Maritime Empire of C7-11



A superb early Tang Dynasty (C6-7) water jug with a body decorated with incised lotus leaves. It is a product from a southern Chinese Yue kiln.



The city of Palembang, Sumatra, lies 90 km up the Musi River at a point where the river is one kilometer wide. It was the ancient capital of Sriwijaya. This was one of the great maritime empires of South East Asia, exercising its influence around coastal areas as far affeld as Java, Cambodia and Vietnam. It also contributed to the population of Madagascar, 8,000 kms to the west.

HJV has a superb collection of some 240 pottery pieces from Palembang that date from C7 to C17. It includes import ware from: Chinese Tang (C6-9), Song (C10-12) & Yuan (C13) Dynasties, as well as from Thailand and Vietnam (C14-15). This collection validates the importance of Palembang as a maritime center.

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