

Lokapala torso (tianwang)

Chinese Collection

Accession Nr.: **9799** 

Type: **sculpture; funeral object; pottery**

Date of production: First half of 8th century
Tang dynasty

Place of production: **Shaanxi and Henan provinces, China**

Materials: **clay; earthenware**

Techniques: **stamped; with traces of paint**

Dimensions: height: 36.6 cm
width: 28.6 cm

Depending on regulations on size and decoration, a usual technique of producing a burial figure was to make several moulded pieces and paste them together with slip before firing. Large-sized fired pieces (such as lokapala [Sanskrit: “gate-keeper”] figures) were often decorated with carved patterns.

The red-fired earthenware lokapala is placing his left hand on his hip; in his right he probably carried a spear. His grim-visaged face is framed with a wedge-shape headdress that holds his hair together. His upper body is covered by an armour whose shape shows similarity with contemporary pieces.

