



Incense Burner

Date

ca. 1000-1550

Primary Maker

Central Highlands/Atlantic Watershed

Medium

pottery and slip paint

Description

Ceramic vessels brought to the Intermediate Area by Maya traders likely influenced this frying pan-shaped incense burner. As the popularity of this form increased, it slowly replaced the more common tripod-style incense burners. A shallow pan is attached to a curving handle with a small animal head decoration. The artists who formed the hollow handle left small balls of clay inside to produce sound when the piece moved. The anthropomorphic appliqué on the handle may give some indication of the ritual importance of this item and, given the absence of burning on the interior, it is likely this object was made in order to be deposited as a tomb or burial offering.

Dimensions

Overall: 2 x 8 1/2 x 5 in. (5.1 x 21.6 x 12.7 cm)