Eight Auspicious Symbols

The eight auspicious symbols of the Buddhism of East Asia and the Himalayan region are the wheel, the conch, the parasol, the victory banner, the lotus, the vase, the two fish, and the endless knot.

Illustration: Terese Tse Bartholomew, Hidden Meanings, Asian Art Museum.

The wheel symbolizes the turning wheel of Buddhist doctrine that leads to perfection.

The conch symbolizes the far-reaching sound of the Buddhist teaching.

The parasol symbolizes protection as well as spiritual power.

The victory banner symbolizes the victory of the Buddhist teaching.

The lotus symbolizes purity.

The vase symbolizes the elixir of life.

The two fish symbolize freedom from restraint.

The endless knot symbolizes infinite wisdom.
Treasure Wall modeled after the Chinese Imperial Interior

Center section

33 花鳥壺 清雍正朝 景德鎮粉彩瓷
Ewer with birds and flowers
Qing dynasty, reign of the Yongzheng emperor (1723–1735)
Porcelain with overglaze multicolor decoration, B60P2341

34 蝙蝠蓮花鏤空帽架 清乾隆朝 銅胎捏絲琺瑯
Hat stand with bats and lotus scrolls
Qing dynasty, reign of the Qianlong emperor (1736–1795)
Copper alloy with cloisonné enamel and gilding, B60P440

35 織枝蓮仕女坐騎圖瓶 清乾隆朝 銅胎畫琺瑯
Bottle vase with the scene of ladies on horses
Qing dynasty, reign of the Qianlong emperor (1736–1795)
Copper alloy with enamel, B60P9+

36 蓮枝團壽夔龍紋洗 清雍正朝 藍玻璃
Bowl with lotus scrolls and circular character for longevity
Qing dynasty, reign of the Yongzheng emperor (1723–1735)
Glass, Gift of Dr. Jules and Hilda Koch, B87M7

37 神獸馱樽古式彝 清代 玉石
Mythic beast presenting a ritual vessel
Approx. 1800–1900
Qing dynasty (1644–1911)
Nephrite, Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Marvin L. Gordon, 1991.88.1

38 凱柄古式杯 清代 玉石
Phoenix presenting a ritual vessel
Approx. 1800–1900
Qing dynasty (1644–1911)
Nephrite, B60J472

39 蓮紋枝紋梅瓶 清雍正朝 景德鎮青花瓷
Vase with branches of flowers and peach
Qing dynasty, reign of the Yongzheng emperor (1723–1735)
Porcelain with mold-impressed decoration and celadon glaze, B60P13

40 花卉詩文筆筒 清乾隆朝 景德鎮粉彩瓷
Square brush holder with flowers and poems
Qing dynasty, reign of the Qianlong emperor (1736–1795)
Porcelain with overglaze multicolor decoration, B60P2342

All objects are from The Avery Brundage Collection, unless otherwise noted.
Treasure Wall modeled after the Chinese Imperial Interior

Right section