



The Lohan, Po-te-lo (Bhadra)

Date

18th or 19th century

Primary Maker

Artist Unknown

Medium

soapstone

Description

Small stone sculptures are often found in the scholar's studio. Their purpose was to entertain and amuse the literati and to refresh the mind after a long period of study and reflection. It is also possible that this compact sculpture may also have functioned as a paperweight.

Bhadra of the Buddhist scriptures was a cousin of the

Buddha and one of his great disciples. He was purportedly a good preacher, and could expound the Master's teachings in a clear and concise manner. He is often depicted accompanied by a tiger, which he soothes or restrains.

Dimensions

Overall: 2 3/4 x 2 1/8 x 2 5/8 in. (7 x 5.4 x 6.7 cm)