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vase
CD94-684
S89-1719

Artifact Number	80-441.1-3
Current Cultural Affiliations	Chinese
All Affiliations	Chinese
Category	02: furnishings
Sub-category	B080: household accessory
Place of Origin	Country - China
Place of Use	Country - no entry
Measurements	Height 14.5 cm, Length 7.0 cm, Width 4.5 cm
Earliest Possible Date	1900/01/01 C
Latest Possible Date	1910/12/31 C
Caption	Ping (Vase), early 1900s China Chinese Vase (Ping)
Additional Information	In traditional China every individual, however rich or poor, was entitled to be honoured on three occasions: birth, death and marriage. Among Chinese-Canadians marriage is similarly honoured, but the circumstances and ceremonies surrounding it now blend Chinese tradition with Western symbolism. Matchmakers and fortune-tellers are no longer consulted; Canadian born Chinese choose their spouses themselves, though some continue to avoid marrying persons of the same surname. Weddings are now usually conducted in a church, followed by a reception at home and a banquet in a restaurant. Newlyweds maintain the tradition of offering tea to parents and relatives, but the old custom of kowtowing to elders and worshipping heaven and earth and the ancestors has waned. Some traditional wedding gifts are chop-sticks, dates and lotus seeds, all

symbolizing the wish that the couple have many children. Another ideal gift would be a jade vase, whose name ping is a homophone for peace and stability. The vase pictured here has handles shaped like ling zhi, a fungus that is the emblem of immortality.

The handles of the vase are shaped like the Chinese alphabet character for immortality. In Chinese, this type of vase is called ping, which sounds identical to the word meaning peace and stability. It is a popular wedding present.

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