Incense burner

Place of origin: Jingdezhen (made)
Date: ca. 1550-1640 (made)
Artist/Maker: Unknown
Materials and Techniques: Porcelain
Credit Line: Purchased with Art Fund support, the Vallentin Bequest, Sir Percival David and the Universities China Committee
Museum number: CIRC.130-1935
Gallery location: In Storage

Public access description
This porcelain incense burner was made in the imperial kilns of Jingdezhen in Southeast China during the Ming dynasty in between the late 16th century and early 17th century. The shape is in the form of a gui, an ancient bronze vessel, and the ceramics imitates the ivory white of the Ding ware produced during the Song dynasty (960-1279).

The taste for 'archaistic' forms developed among the circles of imperial officers and literati during the Song dynasty, when 'copying the ancient' (fanggu) became an established practice as a way of honouring the past and celebrate previous dynasties.

Descriptive line
Porcelain incense burner imitating ding ware, Jingdezhen, Ming dynasty, ca. 1550-1640

Physical description
Porcelain incense burner shaped as an archaic bronze vessel, with circular foot and two handles departing from dragon heads; the body is decorated with raised lines.

Dimensions
Height: 11.1 cm

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URL
http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O181197/incense-burner-unknown/