



BOTANICAL RUNNER STONE VESSEL SCULPTURE

\$4,680

c. 1900 • Northern China, China • Limestone • Collection #DMB002

H: 21.0" Dia: 26.0"

Simply shaped with an elegant form, this large limestone vessel is actually a runner stone, a key component to a traditional Chinese grain mill. Set atop an extensively carved mill stone, the runner stone was harnessed to a donkey or mule that pulled the runner in a circular motion across the bottom mill stone. With repeated rotations, the heavy weight of the stone was used to grind a variety of grains into flour. This early 20th-century runner stone was likely originally covered in a pattern of grooves, but frequent use has worn down the surface to the smooth texture it has today. Continued...



1740 W. Webster Ave., Chicago, IL 60614 • 773-235-1188 • info@pagodared.com

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Otherwise unadorned, the lip of this runner's opening is bordered with a pattern of trailing vines and blossoming flowers. Despite its functional origins, the stone lives on as a piece of sculpture, a piece of history tucked away in the garden.

