

A few years later, Nguyet realized her true love was the study of ancient Asian art and culture. Her investigative skills transitioned seamlessly into those of a historian and art collector. Tuyet absorbed herself in learning art history, and she never let up. Her expertise expanded over the next fifty years. During that time, Nguyet became one of the leading influencers in Asian art and artifacts. Her reputation and work contributed to the massive rise in popularity of Asian art during the latter part of the twenty-first century.

In 1970, at the age of thirty-six, Nguyet and her husband Stephen Markbreiter founded *Arts of Asia*, a publication which became a mainstay for ancient Asian art. Nguyet served as both editor and publisher for the entire span of the publication. *Arts of Asia* provided its readers in-depth information on museum exhibitions, gallery exhibits, and Asian art history. *Arts of Asia* was a resource for collectors and museums around the world. Over time, Nguyet began to acquire a series of distinct Asian art collections. Her years of intense study had prepared her to identify the best examples of artistry, and her collections became synonymous with quality. Nguyet curated some of the finest collections of Asian art in the world.

Among her most cherished and prized collections was a selection of 100 ancient gold rings from Southeast Asia, which Nguyet amassed over the span of forty years. These rings are considered by experts to represent the best of their kind in existence today. In July 2017, *Arts of Asia* printed a special edition dedicated to this collection of 100 rings.

Twelve of these gold rings, plus an additional gold box acquired by Nguyet, now reside in our treasure. Not only are these items rare, but they are also important pieces of history. Jewelry is some of what remains to give us clues about the ancient cultures that forged them.

Our ring shown here originates from a period known as pre-Angkor, between the 1st and 8th centuries AD. The area of origin for this ring was located in what is today Vietnam. This ring weighs almost a full ounce. There is something mystical and alluring about this adornment. The pre-Angkor period was known for its extraordinarily intricate jewelry, yet this ring's craftsmanship seems ahead of its time.

Gold jewelry in this area dates as far back as 200-300 BC. To the east in India, gold was an important symbol in Hindu and Buddhist traditions. By 250 AD, people from India were traveling westward looking for this precious metal. Because of this migration, Hindu and Buddhist influences in



Pictured here is a gold double lotus ring with blue inset glass now in our treasure.