

Stone
(Marble)

40.2
a-b

Chinese, ~~circa 12th century B.C.~~

~~Late Shang-early Chou dynasty, 12th-11th century B.C.~~

~~Late Anyang period, 11th c. B.C.~~

Terminal ornament: a bird in profile silhouette with details in ~~countersunk linear relief~~ on both sides; perforated tang; areas of incrustation. Wooden stand.

.118 high over all. (4-5/8")

Neg. Nos.
S1625B
S2079AA
~~S6627B~~

1. Bought from C. T. Loo & Co., New York. For price, see Freer Gallery of Art Purchase List after 1920.

2. (J.E.L., 1941). According to the dealer, this ornament was found at An-yang: quite possibly it was. In any case, the hard water-deposit with which it is more or less incrustated, --- especially on one side, --- is a fair indication that it was buried. The perforated tang suggests that this bird was originally mounted much as it is mounted now, with the addition, no doubt, of a pin passing through the perforation and thus holding the bird firmly in position, --- though for what purpose I do not know. Crested birds of this general type are not uncommon among early jades and bronzes, and seem to have been regarded as important symbols during a considerable period. Compare, for example, our jade pendant 39.6, the base

and handles of 38.20, and the handles of 31.10.

3. Sp. G. is 2.892.

4. (W.B.Trousdale, 1964) Shang dynasty. The general type are well attested from the Shang period. The thread-line carving is of less fine quality than that on another Shang marble carving (48.23), being here formed essentially by parallel incised lines rather than standing in relief.