

Jade

15.69

S.I.657

Chinese,

~~Early Chou dynasty.~~ ~~Late Shang-Early~~ Western Chou, 1027-771 B.C.

Ceremonial implement of the type kuei; long, wide form with bevelled end and perforation above handle; mottled pale cream and dark reddish brown with traces of black; smooth surface. (Slightly chipped, gouge at end of handle.)

35.0 cm

~~35.0~~ in length. (13-13/16")~~0.70~~ in width. (2-3/4")

07.0 cm

Neg. No.

~~15.69~~
S3017AE

1. Bought from Hwang Chung-huei, New York. For price, see Original Miscellaneous List, p. 157.
2. Original attribution: Early Chou. See further, S.I.657, Appendix VII. ~~(See Appendix VII)~~
3. (C.W.B., 1922) See Laufer, Jade, p. 99, for discussion of type, also pp. 90 et seq. and figs. 24, 28-33.
4. (A.G.W., 1946) Early Chou dynasty.
5. Sp. G. is 2.919.
6. (G.P.M., 1922) If that isn't nephrite, I don't know what it is - there is nothing else that would look like that - so fine, compact, and hard.

7. (Julia Murray, 1980) Attribution is changed from Late Shang-Early Western Chou to Western Chou, 1027-771 B.C. **From** the exhibition label: Based on a Neolithic stone tool whose blade is sharpened at the top, early jade chisels were ceremonial rather than utilitarian. The shape was retained in the jade repertoire in the Shang and Chou periods. The simple, elegant shape of a chisel is subtly embellished by smoothly ground edges, which are shown to advantage by the lustrous polish of the entire surface. This exceptionally large chisel resembles some types of scepter, another ceremonial tablet. A smaller object of similar shape was found at Chung-chou-lu, near Loyang, Honan, in a tomb assigned to the Western Chou period, ca. 1027-771 B.C.

8. (Julia Murray, 1982). The large tablet 15.69 represents a type of ceremonial jade originally based on Neolithic stone tool shapes. It shares certain features with chisel-shaped jades (see folder sheet 17.31) such as the beveling of the short end opposite the perforation. Its indented grip, however, is reminiscent of the chang scepter (see folder sheet 16.492), and it could be called a broad example of the type of chang that does not have projecting handles (cf. 16.369).

The Chung-chou-lu tablet mentioned in the 1980 label is reproduced in Lo-yang Chung-chou-lu 洛陽中州路, Peking, 1959; pl. 42/8.