

Jade
(Nephrite)

17.346

S.I.1286

Chinese,

W:Chou-dynasty; Neolithic, ca. 2000 B.C.
Trad. Chekiang Provenance

Perforated disc of the type pi; bored from both sides leaving median ridge; obverse of mottled rich greens, blue and dull yellow, some deep red veins and tan strata cracks; reverse of mottled olive brown, olive green and some yellow, tan strata cracks; light frosting of incipient disintegration, more pronounced on reverse; decoration: lightly incised, a bird device. . . (Rim broken and chipped.) Box.

.245 in diameter. (9-11/16")

Neg. No.

~~S814AE~~

S814AE

S815AA

1. Bought from Seaouke Yue, of Shanghai, in New York. For price, see Original Miscellaneous List, p. 287.
2. Original attribution: Shang. See further, S.I.1286, Appendix VIII. Excavated in Anki in Chekiang Prov.
3. (A.G.W., 1945) Chou dynasty.
4. (I.M., 1946) The device is in the form of a bird on a goblet-shaped perch above a shield-like base in the center of which is a character or symbol in the form

of an oval with two vertical lines.



Cf. device on 17.79, which is very similar, differing in the field decoration; also device on 17.348, where the goblet-shaped form is missing. See also devices on 19.58 and 17.385 for variations.

5. Sp. G. is 3.008. Nephrite.
6. (T.Lawton, 1978) Western Chou.
7. From Exhibition Label, September 1980, by Julia Murray: Attribution is changed from W. Chou to Neolithic, ca. 2000 B.C., Trad. Chekiang Provenance.
8. (Julia K. Murray, 1983) The enigmatic emblems that are lightly incised on one side of this pi and on three other pi in the Freer collection (17.79, 17.348 and 19.58) are identified by Hayashi Minao (1981 article) with the Liang-chu culture, which flourished in Kiangsu and Chekiang provinces during the 3rd millennium B.C. In style and concept they also relate to the two motifs on the tall jade ring 17.385(q.v.). The appearance of incised decorations and the unusually careful workmanship on these jades

suggests that they were ceremonial pieces of great value and importance. See folder sheet 17.19 for a discussion of pi.

9. See 17.79, # 12.