

Jade

17.378C
S.I.1318

Chinese

~~Chou, Western~~

Neolithic, ca. 2000 B.C.

Ornament; small thin plaque with slightly convex surface, rounded top and straight base; mottled white and dull tan; satin smooth surface; reverse is slightly concave and covered with chalky white deposit, three small, 2-holed conical perforations for attachment bored vertically, at top and each side. One of a set, see 17.378 A, B and D. Box.

Height: .031 (1-7/32")

Length: .060 (2-3/8")

Neg.Nos.
392B8
3895A

1. Bought from Seauke Yue, of Shanghai. For price, see Original Miscellaneous List, p. 301. Said to have been excavated in Shensi.

2. Original attribution: Hsia. See further, S.I. 1318, Appendix VIII.

3. (J.E.Lodge, 1928) Late Chou.

4. (I.Mayer, 1945) Chou dynasty or earlier.

5. Sp. G. is 2.893.

6. (W.B.Trousdale, 1964) Chou dynasty. Western Chou, 9th-8th century B.C. Though undecorated, form is related to 16.511 and 17.380, and presumably of same date.

7. (T. Lawton, 1978) For an illustration of a similar jade plaque unearthed from a Liang-chu culture site in the Hangchow Bay region of Chekiang province, see K'ao-ku t'ung-hsün, 1957, no. 2, pl. 12, fig. 15. Although the Liang-chu culture is primarily a neolithic culture, considered part of the Lung-shan neolithic culture, its sites also yielded later artifacts, including Chou and Han jades.

8. (Julia Murray, 1980) Attribution is changed from Western Chou to Neolithic, ca. 2000 B. C.

9. (Julia Murray, 1982) Plaques 17.378C and 17.378D are both closely related to the type of jade ornament belonging to the late phase of the Liang-chu 良渚 culture, represented by the excavated piece cited above by Lawton. Two other plaques in the Freer collection, which differ in being larger and in bearing surface decoration resembling demonic masks, are 16.511 and 17.380. All four plaques, however, seem intended to perform the same function, for all are drilled in back with three pairs of holes for attachment or stringing. In addition to being smaller than the two decorated plaques, 17.378C and 17.378D also are slightly different in their proportions, being wider relative to height.