

Jade

17.382  
S.I.1322

Chinese

~~Chou, Western~~Neolithic or early Shang, late 2nd millennium B.C.  
Traditional Shensi provenance

Ornament; pendant of irregular shape with slightly concave edges and indented base; semicircular projection on top with two small conical perforations; semitranslucent, light green with profuse cloudy white decomposition; mirrorlike luster; tool mark on one side; sharp edges. Box.

Length: .079 (3-1/8")

Width: .034 (1-3/8")

Neg.Nos.  
1616AA  
392B5

1. Bought from Seaouke Yue, of Shanghai. For price, see Original Miscellaneous List, p. 302.
2. Original attribution: Hsia. See further, S.I. 1322, Appendix VIII. Excavated in Shensi Province.
3. (J.E.Lodge, 1929) Chou.
4. Sp. G. is 2.871. Soft material.
5. (A.G.Wenley, 1946) Period uncertain. This may well be a Ch'ing dynasty forgery.
6. (I.Mayer, 1946) Cf. 16.628 for piece of somewhat similar shape.

7. (W.B.Trousdale, 1964) Chou dynasty. Object of unknown use. Partly decolored stone. Probably early Eastern Chou. See also related pieces, 16.628 and 12.52.

8. (T.Lawton, 1978) The kind of stone, the quality of the polish, and the silhouette of this object all suggest a Western Chou date. Cf. a similar example in the Fogg Museum (Loehr, Ancient Chinese Jades, no. 378, where it is dated Eastern Chou (?) and illustrated upside-down). Ch'ing archaistic pieces in the collection based on this type are 12.52 and 12.53.

For a similar jade ornament unearthed from a Liang-chu 良渚 culture site in the Hangchou Bay region of Chekiang province, see K'ao-ku t'ung-hsün, 1957, no. 2, fig. 18. Although the Liang-chu culture is primarily a neolithic culture, considered part of the Lung-shan neolithic culture, the sites in the region also yielded later artifacts, including Chou and Han jades.

9. (Julia Murray, 1980) Attribution is changed from Western Chou to Neolithic or early Shang, late 2nd millennium B.C.; traditional Shensi provenance.

10. (Julia Murray, 1982) A fragmentary plaque nearly identical in shape to 17.382 was found at Wu-chin Ssu-tun 武進寺墩, Kiangsu province, in remains from the late Liang-chu 良渚 phase of the east coast Neolithic culture (K'ao-ku 1981 no. 3: p. 196, fig. 6/16). The typology of pottery found with the jade plaque, and the jade tsung and pi also at the site, confirm that the remains belong to the Neolithic period and not a later era. Thus, it is also

probable that the plaque published in K'ao-ku t'ung-hsün 1957 no. 2, discussed by Lawton above, is also Neolithic in date.

In addition to these two excavated plaques, a third was excavated at Wu-hsien Chang-ling-shan 吳縣張陵山, Kiangsu. It is briefly described in K'ao-ku 1981 no. 3: p. 196 but is not reproduced.

A fourth jade plaque, slightly more squat in shape (more like FGA plaque 16.628) and decorated with a face-like mask (similar to that found on FGA tsung 16.118 and 17.384, and plaques 17.380 and 16.511) was excavated nearby at Chiangning Tsan-miao 江寧答廟, Kiangsu province (K'ao-ku 1981 no. 3: p. 197, fig. 7).

Hayashi Minao has suggested that the shape of these plaques is descended from that represented by butterfly-shaped objects made of wood that were found in remains of the Ho-mu-tu 河姆渡 culture on the south shore of the Hangchow Bay, in Chekiang province. These finds, which include the earliest evidence for rice-cultivation in China, have been carbon-dated to 5000 B.C. See Hayashi Minao, "Jade of the Liang-chu Culture" 林巳奈夫, "良渚文化の玉器若干をめぐって" Museum no. 360 (March, 1981): 22-33 (in Japanese).

11. See 16.628# 10.

12. See 16.118, # 8.