

Jade

17.385

S.I.1325

Chinese,

~~W. Chou dynasty.~~

Neolithic, ca. 2000 B.C.

Ring; wide, cylindrical form with slightly concave side, possibly a bracelet; translucent, mottled pale shades of gray, green and lemon yellow, cream white discoloration of decomposition; decoration: lightly incised device on one side, sun and moon symbol on the other; one strata crack with brown discoloration; satin smooth surface. Box.

3.9cm in diameter. (1-9/16")

Neg. No.

~~H377B4~~

6.4cm in width. (2-9/16")

S925AA

S926AA

Diam of hole: one end 5.2-5.4 cm; other 5.5-5.6 cm

1. Bought from Seaouke Yue, of Shanghai. For price, see Original Miscellaneous List, p. 303.

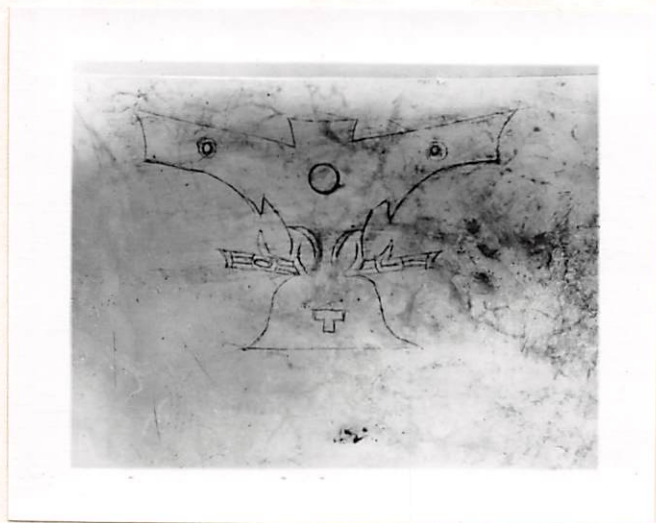
2. Original attribution: Hsia. See further, S.I.1325, Appendix VIII. Excavated Shensi Province.

3. Sp. G. is 2.944.

4. (I. M., 1945) Chou dynasty.

Compare device and symbol with 19.58, 17.79, and 17.348., also 17.346.

5. (T. Lawton, 1978) Western Chou.



6. (Julia Murray, 1980) Attribution is changed from W.Chou to Neolithic, ca. 2000 B.C. From the exhibition label: Tall rings with slightly concave walls are part of the Neolithic jade inventory in Eastern and Southern China. This bangle is unusual in having decorated exterior surfaces; (see also 19466) two lightly incised linear emblems appear on opposite faces of this bangle. The one side shows an abstract bird-like pattern. The other side bears an emblem which may represent the sun over the moon. This motif forms part of the symbol of the pi 17.348, and a virtually identical emblem appears on a Neolithic pottery vessel excavated in Shantung.

7. (Julia Murray, 1982). For a general discussion of bangles, see Folder Sheet 17.387 . In shape and proportions, bangle 17.385 most resembles an actinolite bangle found in Neolithic remains at Chang-ling-shan, Wu-hsien 吳縣張陵山 , in Kiangsu province (see Art Treasures from the Nanjing Museum Collection 南京博物院展 Nagoya, 1981, cat. no. 22), and an ivory bangle found in the upper layer at Ta-hsi, Wu-shan 巫山大溪 Szechwan (K'ao-ku hsüeh-pao

1981/4, pl. 8/5 (M101:25)). The latter is tentatively dated to the 4th millennium B. C. and the former to the late 4th/3rd millennium B. C.

The incised emblem resembling a sun over moon (see photograph below) occurs in similar form on a large pottery wine jar (tsun) belonging to a late stage of the Ta-wen-k'ou 大汶口 culture. The jar was found at Ling-ho-ts'un, Ying-hsien 莒縣陵河村 Shantung (Ta-wen-k'ou, Peking, 1974, p. 118, fig. 94) and is attributed to the late 3rd millennium B. C.

At a point 180° away from the sun-moon emblem there is another incised design, somewhat resembling outstretched wings with eyes in them. Hayashi Minao 林巳奈夫 relates this motif to angular plaques like FGA 16.628 and 17.382 and traces the origins of the motif back to the Ho-mu-tu 河姆渡 culture of the Hangzhou Bay area (carbon-dated to ca. 5000 B.C.). He tentatively interprets the motif as representing the spirit of the sun. Furthermore, he speculates that the occurrence of one motif characteristic of Shantung (i.e., the sun-moon) and one characteristic of the Lower Yangtze (wings with eyes) together on FGA bangle 17.385 symbolizes the forging of some kind of kinship tie between the two areas. (See "Jades of the Liang-chu Culture" 良渚文化の玉器若干をめぐって Museum no. 360 (March, 1981), pp. 22-33).

Other incised emblems of similar character and date are found on four pi disks in the Freer collection (17.79, 17.346, 17.348 and 19.58). Hayashi Minao also discusses them in the article cited above.

8. (See 16.628, #10.