

Jade

17.387

S.I.1327

Chinese,

~~Chou dynasty.~~ Neolithic, third millennium B.C.

Traditional Shensi provenance

Narrow ring with wide perforation and flat sides,
possibly a bracelet; mottled yellow, orange and red-
dish brown; proportions irregular; some areas of gray
incipient disintegration. (Rim slightly chipped). Box.

.8.6^{cm} in diameter. (3-3/8")

Neg. No.
H393B7

.1.7^{cm} in width. (21/32")

5.9 - 6.2 cm diameter of hole

1. Bought from Seaouke Yue, Shanghai. Said to
have been excavated at Sianfu, Shensi, and to have belonged
to the Viceroy Tuan Fang. For price, see Original Mis-
cellaneous List, p. 304.

2. Original attribution: Hsia. See further,
S.I.1327, Appendix VIII.

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

4. Sp. G. is 2.908.

5. (T. Lawton, 1978) Attribution changed from Chou
to Neolithic.

6. (Julia Murray, 1980) Added "Traditional Shensi
provenance" to the attribution. (on the basis of entry 1)

7. (Julia Murray, 1982) Bangles and rings are found in Neolithic remains in various parts of China, often made of polished stone or pottery in addition to jade. They seem to have served mainly as arm-ornaments, and some were on the arm of the skeleton when unearthed. The name cho 鐲 is often given to those whose walls are tall enough to make them slightly tubular, while the name huan 環 tends to be applied to flatter, disklike rings. However, the term huan is also loosely applied to the taller type of ring.

Subgroups within the category cho include the following:

- 1) bangles whose walls are straight and have a flat top and bottom (17.387, 19.50, 17.143, 17.140, 18.29, 17.36, 18.21, 17.58 and 17.139). Those classed as Neolithic display slight irregularity in size and shape of the hole, and in thickness of the wall.
- 2) bangles with relatively thin and tall walls whose outer contour is slightly concave (19.46, 17.385, 18.46 and 17.43). (The last-named jade exhibits certain other features not found in the preceding three.)
- 3) bangles with relatively short and thick walls whose outer contour is convex and whose inner surface is straight (19.49, 19.48, 17.391, 17.386; and the archaistic 12.19, 17.388, 11.452, 14.40, 12.20, 11.453 and 11.454). (The last five mentioned have decorations on the convex outer walls.)

Jade and other hardstone bangles of these types have been found at the following archaeological sites: Ts'ao-hsieh-shan, Wu-hsien, Kiangsu 吳縣草鞋山 in level 8/9 as part of a Ma-chia-pang 馬家浜 cultural complex, ca. 4th millennium B.C.

(Wen-wu tzü-liao ts'ung-k'an no. 3: p. 23 fig. 70/11; Ta-hsi, Wu-shan, Szechwan 巫山大溪 in late-stage tombs, ca. 4th millennium B.C. (Wen-wu 1961 no. 11: p. 21, fig. 35 right (from M6) and K'ao-ku hsüeh-pao 1981 no. 4: pl. 8/9, M140:19); Ta-wen-k'ou, Chi-nan, Shantung 濟南大汶口, ca. 3rd millennium B.C. (Ta-wen-k'ou, Peking, 1974: pl. 98/4 (M3:4, jade) and pl. 98/6 (M47:14, stone); Ching-chih-chen, An-ch'iu, Shantung 安邱景芝鎮, ca. 3rd millennium B.C. (K'ao-ku hsüeh-pao 1959 no. 4: pl. VI/4-5 (two from M2) and ibid., pl. VI/3 (M7)); Chang-ling-shan, Wu-hsien, Kiangsu 吳縣張陵山, 3rd millennium B.C. (Art Treasures from the Nanjing Museum Collection 南京博物院展, Nagoya, 1981: cat. no. 22 (actinolite)); and Shih-hsia, Ch'ü-chiang, Kwangtung 曲江石山峽, late 3rd-early 2nd millennium B.C. (Wen-wu 1978 no. 7: p. 15, fig. 29 (M59:39) and ibid., fig. 30 (M15:1, stone)). A few jade bangles occur in Shang sites as well, chiefly Erh-li-t'ou, Yen-shih-hsien, Honan 偃師二里頭 early 2nd millennium B.C. (K'ao-ku 1975 no. 5: pl. 9/3); and Tomb no. 5 of Fu-hao at Anyang, Honan, 12th c. B.C. (Yin-hsü Fu-hao mu 殷虛婦好墓, Peking, 1981: pl. 150).

The archaeological reports for some of the Neolithic sites, such as Shih-hsia and Ts'ao-hsieh-shan, mention that varieties of stone geologically native to the respective regions were used in making these bangles, suggesting that many are not nephrite. It would be useful to test the Freer examples to determine whether any of them are made of the kinds of stone identified by the Chinese: yang-ch'i-shih 陽起石 (actinolite); kao-ling-yü 高岭玉 (?); pai-shih-chih 白石脂 (?); t'ou-shan-shih

透閃石 (?) ; ch'ien-wei she-wen-shih 縹緗蛇紋石
 縹緗石 (fine-grained serpentine); and huo-shao-yü
 火燒玉 (burned jade?).

Among the excavated bangles mentioned above, the stone example from Ta-wen-k'ou (Ta-wen-k'ou, pl. 98/6 M47:14) is most similar to the Freer's 17.387, suggesting a date for the latter in the third millennium B.C.

Folder sheets cross-referenced to this are:

19.50, 17.143, 17.140, 18.29, 17.36, 18.21, 17.58, 17.139, 19.46, 17.385, 18.46, 17.43, 19.49, 19.48, 17.391, 17.386, 12.19, 17.388, 11.452, 14.40, 12.20, 11.453, 11.454, 78.44 and 16.387.