

Jade
(Nephrite)

17.57

S.I.1144

Chinese,

~~W. Chou dynasty, 1027-771 B.C.~~

Late Shang

Ceremonial implement:

Slender chisel-shaped object of the type kuei; two conical perforations at one end, bored from opposite sides; edges rounded and slightly tapering to beveled end; closely mottled gray and pale tan; decoration: incised, faint traces of design between perforations; unctuous surface. (Corner broken). Box.

20.8 cm		Neg. No.
20.8 in length.	(8-3/16")	H380B13
0.39 width at blade.	(1-9/16")	S3809AE
03.9 cm		

1. Bought from Lee Van Ching, of Shanghai. For price, see Original Miscellaneous List, p. 259.
2. Original attribution: Han. See further, S.I.1144, Appendix VIII. (See Paragraph 6.)
3. Sp. G. is 2.955.
4. (I.M., 1945) Chou dynasty.
5. (E.H.W., 1956) X-ray diffraction analysis. Nephrite. Film F148. 3/15/56.
6. (H.E. Buckman, 1964) The Envelope File contained no further information, and has now been destroyed.

7. (T. Lawton, 1973) The following information was carved on the box in which this object arrived: Han yen kuei 漢琰圭 .

8. (T. Lawton, 1978) ~~Western Chou~~, Late Shang.

9. (Julia Murray, 1980) From the exhibition label: Based on a Neolithic stone tool whose blade is sharpened at the top, early jade chisels were ceremonial rather than utilitarian. The shape was retained in the jade repertoire in the Shang and Chou periods. The simple, elegant shape of a chisel is subtly embellished by smoothly ground edges, which are shown to advantage by the lustrous polish of the entire surface. Most chisels have a single perforation, often drilled from one side only, resulting in a hole whose diameter is larger on one side of the piece. This long, sleek chisel displays two holes drilled from opposite sides, with faint traces of an incised design between them.

10. (Julia Murray, 1982). For a general discussion of chisel-shaped jades, see folder sheet 17.31 . Chisel 17.57 is more elongated and has a glossier polish than the others in the Freer collection.