

Jade

19.46
S.I.1424

Chinese

~~Han~~

Neolithic, ca. 2000 B.C.

Wide, cylindrical ring with slightly concave walls, possibly a bracelet; translucent, very pale greenish gray with cloudy veinings and a dark brown area partly covering one rim, sprinkled with incipient disintegration; decoration: incised and in very low relief, lozenge pattern borders enclose band of continuous, geometric design; earth incrustations on interior. (One long crack and some recent chips and scratches.) Box.

Neg.Nos.
200AAE

Diameter: 7.3 cm (2-7/8")
Width: 5.0 cm (2")
Diam of hole: 6.3 - 6.5 cm

1. Bought from Seaouke Yue, of Shanghai. Formerly in the collection of the Viceroy Tuan Fang, and said to have been excavated in Hsi-hsi, Chekiang. For price, see Original Miscellaneous List, p. 339.

2. Original attribution: Period unknown. See further, S.I. 1424, Appendix IX.

3. (I.Mayer, 1945) Han dynasty.

4. Sp. G. is 2.946.

5. (H.E.Buckman, 1964) The Envelope File contained no further information, and has now been destroyed.

6. (T.Lawton, 1978) The ring may be Han, and if it is, the ornamentation was added later; stylistically the design does not convince as Han.

7. (Julia Murray, 1980) Attribution is changed from Han 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. The outer surface is covered with abstract meander patterns resembling basketry designs with occasional pairs of eyes. They are executed in a combination of incised and relief lines. Incised in the upper and lower borders are lozenge-shaped plaited patterns. The bangle is said to have been unearthed in Chekiang province. See also 17.385.

8. (Julia Murray, 1982) For a discussion of bangles, see folder sheet 17.387. In shape and proportions, bangle 19.46 most resembles one found in the lower layer at Shih-hsia, Ch'ü-chiang 曲江石峽 in Kwangtung province (Wen-wu 1978/7, p. 15, fig. 29 (M59:39)). The grave in which it was found belongs to the 3rd period, which has been dated to the middle of the 3rd millennium B.C. The designs on 19.46 are not deeply cut, and the incising technique not very sophisticated. In view of finds of jades with raised-line decor in the Early Shang remains at Erh-li-t'ou, Yen-shih 偃師二里頭 in Honan province (K'ao-ku 1976/4, p. 262, fig. 6/1), it seems possible that the workmanship on bangle 19.46 could be early.

9. See 16.628, # 10.