Ancient Chinese Jade

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Jade discs with central circular apertures and cong cylinders enclosed by squared corners are the most famous Chinese jade forms surviving from antiquity, but their original meaning and purpose remains a mystery. Jade bi have been discovered at Neolithic sites in eastern China dated as early as the fifth millennium B.C. Jade cong have been discovered at Neolithic sites in the Jiangnan region dated as early as the last quarter of the fourth millennium B.C.

Many theories of the use and meaning of jade bi and cong in antiquity have been devised based on ancient Chinese texts, particularly the Zhouli ("Rites of Zhou"), one of the classics of Confucian literature. The most widely circulated theory described the jade bi as a symbol of heaven and the jade cong as a symbol of the earth, made for use in sacred rituals to communicate with the powers of heaven and earth. The bi and cong were also said to have been ritually used together as astronomical instruments, with the cong being used as a sighting tube together with a special type of toothed bi to determine true north, an essential element in divination. But none of these theories has been supported by modern archaeological evidence and the ancient texts, written two thousand years after the era when the bi and cong were produced, are now generally regarded as political documents which cannot be relied upon for accurate historical information.

Although jade bi and cong have been known and collected in China for centuries, the dating of specific examples and the chronological evolution of different types is still only partially understood. As recently as fifty years ago the Neolithic origin of the jade cong was not yet widely accepted. Scientifically...
dated archaeological excavations carried out in the 1970s proved that stone and jade cong were created by the inhabitants of southeast China now referred to as the Liangzhu culture (3300–2200 B.C.), named after the modern city of Liangzhu, near Hangzhou in Zhejiang province where evidence of the earliest and largest walled city in China was first discovered early in the twentieth century. The jade cong now is regarded as an innovation of the Neolithic Liangzhu culture, and the large, heavy jade bi also are regarded as a Liangzhu innovation.

Jade cong and bi continued to be made throughout the Bronze Age, long after the Liangzhu culture disappeared. In the Northern Song (960–1127) the cong and bi reappeared as emblems of classical antiquity and new ceramic and bronze interpretations became popular. Since the Song period these enigmatic ancient forms have been a subject of study for scholars and a constant source of fascination for curators and collectors.
1. **A Large Neolithic Dark Green Jade Bi Disc**

Liangzhu Culture, circa 3300–2250 B.C.

with thick flat sides and straight outer edge, polished to a smooth lustrous surface all over, the central circular aperture drilled from both sides with a narrow ledge remaining in the middle, the very dark green, almost black jade with olive-brown and pale cloudy mottling. Chinese wood fitted box with brocade lining and inset burl wood panel bearing the carved inscription: *Zhou bi* (周璧) *Tao Zhai zhen cang* (陶齋珍藏).

Diameter 7½ inches (19.3 cm)

Provenance From the Collection of Viceroy Duanfang (端方, 1861–1911)
From the Collection of Eugene Meyer (1875–1959) and Agnes E. Meyer (1887–1970)

A Liangzhu jade bi disc of very similar form and size unearthed at the Wenjiashan site, Zhejiang province is illustrated in the catalogue of the special exhibition at the Arthur M. Sackler Museum of Art and Archaeology at Beijing University, by Qin and Fang (eds.), *Quanli yu xinyang: Liangzhu yizhi qun kaogu tezhan* (Power in Things: New Perspectives on Liangzhu), Beijing, 2015, p. 223, pl. II-2-10b, with description on p. 389.


新石器時代 良渚玉璧 徑 19.3 厘米

出處 端方舊藏、邁爾夫婦舊藏
2. **A Neolithic Dark Green Jade Bi Disc**

Liangzhu Culture, *circa* 3300–2250 B.C.

with thick flat sides and rounded outer edge, polished to a smooth lustrous surface all over, the small central aperture drilled from both sides with a narrow ledge remaining in the middle, the very dark green, almost black jade with pale cloudy mottling on one side and continuing unevenly over the outer edge, Chinese fitted box with brocade lining and inset burl wood panel bearing the carved inscription: *Zhou bi* (周璧).

Diameter 5 inches (12.8 cm)

**Provenance** From the Collection of Eugene Meyer (1875–1959) and Agnes E. Meyer (1887–1970)

This type of *bi* disc, with thick sides and small central aperture, is a characteristic Liangzhu Culture jade form. Comparable examples in various sizes have been excavated at many Liangzhu Culture burial sites. Several similar *bi* discs discovered at the Liangzhu site in Fanshan, near Hangzhou, Zhejiang province are illustrated in line drawings and cross-sectional views in the excavation report published in *Wenwu*, 1988, No. 1, p. 10.

Compare also the Liangzhu *bi* disc of slightly larger size unearthed from the Xin’angqiao site, Deqing, Zhejiang province, now in the Deqing Museum, illustrated by Gu (ed.), *Zhongguo chuanshi yuqi quanji* (Complete Collection of Jades Unearthed in China), Vol. 8, Zhejiang, Beijing, 2005, p. 39.


新石器時代 良渚玉璧 徑12.8厘米

出處 邁爾夫婦舊藏
3. **A Large Inscribed Neolithic Jade Cong**

Liangzhu Culture, circa 3300–2250 B.C.

the tall block hollowed out as a cylinder of square cross section with thick walls, the slightly tapered sides divided into thirteen tiers of matching panels angled across the four corners and separated by deep grooves tapering back to the plain vertical band down the center of each side, each panel carved as a rudimentary mask with a pair of raised horizontal bars across the top above a shorter 'nose' bar with rounded ends flanked by two round 'eyes' very faintly incised on either side, with plain collars at either end; the upper collar faintly incised with a shield shaped emblem below the flat mouth rim, the stone of very dark green almost black color with degraded surface shading lighter in some areas; Chinese wood fitted box with brocade lining and inset burl wood panel bearing the carved inscription: Zhou Zu cong (周祖琮) Tao Zhai zhen cang (陶齋珍藏).

Height 12¾ inches (32.7 cm)

Provenance
From the Collection of Viceroy Duanfang (端方, 1861–1911)
From the Collection of Eugene Meyer (1875–1959) and Agnes E. Meyer (1887–1970)

Chinese Neolithic jade carvings inscribed with an emblem are extremely rare. Most of the inscribed Chinese Neolithic jades were produced by the Liangzhu culture which flourished near Lake Tai and in the lower reaches of the Yangzi River valley, in parts of present day southern Jiangsu and northern Zhejiang provinces. Jade cong and bi discs were essential for ritual in the Liangzhu culture. Cong and bi have been found in large numbers in Liangzhu burials, but the great majority are not inscribed. Less than twenty similarly inscribed Liangzhu Neolithic jades are recorded to date. Inscriptions are more frequently found on Neolithic jade bi. In addition to the present example only three other Liangzhu Neolithic cong bearing inscribed shield shaped emblems have been published.

4. A Neolithic Russet-Brown And Yellow Jade Cong

Liangzhu Culture, circa 3300 –2250 B.C.

the wide cylinder with square projecting panels around the sides angled across four corners and divided into two tiers and with short plain collars around the apertures at either end, the repeating panels each carved with a rudimentary stylized mask comprised of twin parallel ridges finely incised with horizontal lines above small circles with incised 'v' points at either side for the eyes and a short raised bar for the nose, the panels separated by deep grooves cut across the angle to end at the plain vertical band down the center of each side, the interior plain and polished, the jade of mottled reddish-brown and tan-yellow color.

Height 3 inches (7.6 cm)

Provenance From the Collection of Eugene Meyer (1875–1959) and Agnes E. Meyer (1887–1970)

A jade cong of slightly smaller size carved in a very similar shape and with closely comparable masks on the projecting corners, excavated from the Liangzhu site at Heyedi, Ha’ining city, Zhejiang province is illustrated by Gu (ed.), Zhongguo chutu yuqi quanji (Complete Collection of Jades Unearthed in China), Vol. 8, Zhejiang, Beijing, 2005, p. 35.

Another jade cong of similar form and size and with similar decoration, carved from mottled reddish-brown and tan-yellow jade in the British Museum is illustrated by Rawson (ed.), The British Museum Book of Chinese Art, London, 1993, p. 52, fig. 23, lower right.

Compare also the Liangzhu cong carved from similar mottled reddish-brown and tan-yellow jade collected by the Emperor Qianlong and made into a flower vase, now in the National Palace Museum, Taipei, illustrated in Ping pen feng hua: Ming Qing huaqi tezhan (The Enchanting Splendor of Vases and Planters: A Special Exhibition of Flower Vessels from the Ming and Qing Dynasties), Taipei, 2014, pp.144–145, 8-07, with English description on pp. 265–266.
5. **A Neolithic Mottled Green And Tan Jade Cong**

Liangzhu Culture, *circa* 3300–2250 B.C.

hollowed as a cylinder, the slightly tapered flat sides with square projecting panels angled across four corners and divided into four tiers, the wide apertures at either end enclosed by short plain collars, the repeating panels each carved with a rudimentary stylized mask comprised of twin parallel ridges above small round incised ‘eyes’ and a short raised bar for the ‘nose’, the panels separated by deep grooves cut across the angle to end at the plain vertical band down the center of each side, the interior of the thick walls plain and polished, the dark green jade mottled with tan-brown and pale grayish-white, showing a weathered surface.

Height 4¼ inches (12 cm)

A Liangzhu jade cong of similar form, with five tiers of corner-panels similarly carved with stylized masks, excavated from tomb no. 1 at the Shedumiao site, Haining, Zhejiang province and currently in the collection of the Haining Museum is illustrated by Gu (ed.) in *Zhongguo chutu yuqi quanji* (Complete Collection of Jades Unearthed in China), Vol. 8, Zhejiang, Beijing, 2005, p. 32.

6. **A Necklace Of Neolithic Jade Beads**

Liangzhu Culture, *circa* 3300–2250 B.C.

made up of thirty-four beads of various shapes and sizes including twenty tubular beads, six awl shaped beads, six small rounded beads and two mushroom shaped beads, all with cloudy tan mottled coloration.

Length 14 ¼ inches (36 cm)


新石器時代 良渚玉項飾 長 36 厘米
7. **Three Small Neolithic Jade Ornaments**

Dawenkou, Hongshan or other primitive culture, *circa* 4000–2000 B.C.

including a flat plaque of roughly rectangular form pierced with a central circular aperture and carved with tiny points at the corners; an oval plaque pierced with two apertures and with twin notches creating two small points at the edges of the median, and a ring of wedge shaped cross section, all carved from jade of mottled cloudy olive-tan color.

Lengths \(\frac{15}{16}, 1, \frac{9}{16}\) inch (2.4, 2.5, 1.8 cm)

Compare the perforated ornament of closely related form unearthed from the Neolithic site at Fuzhuang village, Yanglou, Haozhou city, Anhui province, illustrated in *Zhongguo yuqi quanji* (Compendium of Chinese Jades), Vol. 1, *Primitive Society*, Shijiazhuang, 1992, no. 69, with description on p. 239. Another similar perforated ornament in the Kwan Collection is illustrated by Yang, *Chinese Archaic Jades from the Kwan Collection*, Hong Kong, 1994, no. 37, attributed to the Dawenkou culture or the primitive culture of Yangtze-Huaihe region, *circa* 4300–3000 B.C.

新石器時代 大汶口或紅山玉飾三件 各長 2.4, 2.5, 1.8 厘米

8. **A Group Of Small Neolithic Jade Ornaments**

Liangzhu Culture, *circa* 3300–2250 B.C.

comprised of seven pendants of various cylindrical, ovoid or rounded forms, each with a pierced tab at the top for suspension; a long tubular bead with ‘bull’s nose’ aperture for stringing; and a solid disc with well-finished flat base and sides and recessed top incised with lines radiating to the four compass points from an incised circle surrounding a tiny central recess, the jade of mottled opaque cloudy tan and cream white tone.

Length of tube 2 3/8 inches (6.8 cm)

Several small jade pendants and beads similar to the present examples, unearthed from the Liangzhu site at Yaoshan, Zhejiang province are illustrated in *Liangzhu yizhi qun kaogu baogao* (Reports of the Group Sites at Liangzhu), Vol. I, Yaoshan, Beijing, 2003, col. pls. 95–97 and 527, with descriptions on pp. 57 and 166.

新石器時代 良渚玉飾十一件 玉管長 6.8 厘米
9. **TWO LONG ROD SHAPED JADE ORNAMENTS**

Neolithic Period, *circa* 4000–2000 B.C.

each plain rod of oval cross section, tapering down to a blunt point and pierced with a hole for suspension drilled from both sides near the tip of the flattened opposite end, the sides softly polished, the pale onion-green jade of even tone, showing scattered cloudy inclusions on one side of the shorter rod.

Lengths 6 \( \frac{1}{4} \) and 7 \( \frac{3}{8} \) inches (15.9 and 19.4 cm)

Compare two rod shaped ornaments similarly pointed and pierced, excavated at Zhanglingshan, Nanjing, Jiangsu province, illustrated by Sun in “A Chronology of Liangzhu Jades,” Colloquies on Art & Archaeology in Asia, No. 18, Chinese Jades, London, 1997, p. 59, pl. 20, described as early Liangzhu period, *circa* 3,000 B.C.
10. **Two Small Neolithic Jade Ornaments**

Liangzhu Culture, circa 3300–2250 B.C.

A bird shown flattened in simplified silhouette with wings displayed, the oval head with large round eyes and short beak, drilled with a hole through the breast, the jade of milk-white tone; and a blade shaped pendant with polished sides and half-round point, the inset tab at the blunt end pierced with two tiny holes, the cloudy white jade with reddish-brown mottling.

**Length of bird 2 1/8 inches (5.4 cm)**

**Length of blade 1 3/4 inches (4.4 cm)**


A small jade blade of similar form but without the pierced tab excavated from the Liangzhu site at Yaozhan, Tongxiang, Zhejiang province is illustrated by Gu (ed.), Zhongguo chutu yuqi quanji (Complete Collection of Jades Unearthed in China), Vol. 8, Zhejiang, Beijing, 2005, p. 55.

新石器時代 良渚玉飾二件 五 5.4 厘米 玉刀長 4.4 厘米

11. **Three Neolithic Jade Cong Form Beads**

Liangzhu Culture, circa 3300–2250 B.C.

A small cong of square cross section, drilled with a circular channel through the center and with two registers of square projecting panels across four corners, each carved across the angles with double bands of incised parallel lines above round ‘eyes’ and a raised narrow band for the ‘nose,’ separated by a recessed vertical band on each side, the cloudy cream colored jade with darker mottling, a miniature cong with raised narrow bands across the angles, the plain polished sides divided into two registers, the jade of milk white tone, and a corner segment of a cong carved in two registers with slightly raised panels across the angle carved with circular eyes within pointed oval surrounds above a narrow raised ‘nose’ band, the reverse plain and smoothly rounded, with a vertical channel drilled from both ends, the cream white jade with remains of encrusted earth.

**Heights 1 1/4, 1/2, 1 3/8 inches (2.9, 1.6, 4.7 cm)**

Three miniature jade congs unearthed at Yaozhan, Yuhang, Zhejiang province are illustrated in the catalogue of the special exhibition at the Arthur M. Sackler Museum of Art and Archaeology at Beijing University by Qin and Fang (eds.), Quanli yu xinyang: Liangzhu yizhi qun kaogu tezhan (Power in Things: New Perspectives on Liangzhu), Beijing, 2015, p. 343, pl. III-2-7, where the authors suggest on p. 429 that miniature jade congs may have been used as ritual objects as well as decorative beads.

Another miniature jade cong is illustrated by Rawson, in Chinese jade from the Neolithic to the Qing, London, 1995, p. 140, no. 5:2, where the author also shows loc. cit., fig. 1, a line drawing from the excavation report on the Liangzhu site at Yaozhan, Yuhang, Zhejiang province with two cong form beads said to be fittings on the shaft of a ritual axe.

Compare also the miniature jade cong unearthed from the Liangzhu site at Huangtushan, Mocheng, Changshu, Jiangsu province, illustrated in Changshu bowuguan congju (Collected Jade of Changshu Museum), Beijing, 2001, no. 4.

新石器時代 良渚玉琮三件 高 2.9, 1.6, 4.7 厘米
12. **A Neolithic Jade Bracelet (Zhuo)**

Liangzhu Culture, *circa* 3300–2250 B.C.

The well finished and smoothly polished wide ring with thick sides, flattened on the inner surface and steeply rounded on the exterior, the olive green stone with cloudy motting throughout.

Diameter 3⅞ inches (8.5 cm)

A jade bracelet of very similar form and size excavated from the Liangzhu site at Yaoshan, Zhejiang province, is illustrated in *Liangzhu yizhi quan kaogu baogao* (Reports of the Group Sites at Liangzhu), Vol. 1, Yaoshan, Beijing, 2003, p. 301, col. pl. 49, with description on p. 158 and in a line drawing on p. 159, pl. 199, no. 3.

Compare also the Liangzhu jade bracelet of very similar form in the British Museum, showing the same cloudy alteration of the stone, illustrated by Rawson, *Chinese Jade from the Neolithic to the Qing*, London, 1995, p. 147, fig. 1.

新石器時代 良渚玉鐲 徑 8.5 厘米

13. **A Neolithic Jade Bracelet (Zhuo)**

Liangzhu Culture, *circa* 3300–2250 B.C.

With plain narrow flattened sides, the angles gently squared and the surface softly polished, the pale onion-green jade with scattered white motting throughout.

Diameter 3⅞ inches (9.2 cm)


新石器時代 良渚玉鐲 徑 9.2 厘米
A Neolithic Jade Openwork Hooked Cloud Form Pendant
Hongshan Culture, circa 3500–2000 B.C.

with a large central 'C'-scroll extended out to a slightly smaller matching scroll at one side and linked to hooked and angled elements at the top and sides and a pair of inverted crescents along the base, with forked tooth shaped projections all around the outer rim, the undulating surface carved all over with wide continuous grooves following the design and linking all the elements, a small truncated projection at the top center margin with two suspension holes drilled from one side, the pale onion-green jade with cloudy tan mottling throughout, polished all over to a soft luster.

Length 4¼ inches (12.1 cm)

Similarly carved openwork jade hooked cloud form pendants have been excavated at the large Hongshan temple and stone mound burial complex at Niuheliang in Liaoning province. Compare the cloud form jade pendants found at the Niuheliang site illustrated in Wenwu, 2008, No. 10, p. 26, col. pl. 25 and in a line drawing on p. 30, pl. 34, no. 3; in Wenwu, 1986, No. 8, in a line drawing on p. 12, pl. 18, no. 3; and by Gu (ed.), Zhongguo chutu yuqi quanji (Complete Collection of Jades Unearthed in China), Vol. 2, Inner Mongolia, Liaoning, Jinlin, Heilongjiang, Beijing, 2005, p. 129. Another cloud form jade pendant excavated at the Hongshan culture site at Nasitai, Balinyouqi, Inner Mongolia, is illustrated by Gu (ed.), op. cit., p. 31.


A fragment of a hooked cloud form Hongshan jade plaque in the collection of the National Museum of History, Taiwan, is illustrated by Johnson and Chan in the catalogue of the special exhibition organized by the San Antonio Museum of Art, 5,000 Years of Chinese Jade: San Antonio, 2011, p. 36, no. 1, and two more Hongshan jade plaques of this type in the Kwan Collection are illustrated by Yang, Chinese Archaic Jades from the Kwan Collection, Hong Kong, 1994, nos. 3 and 4.

For a concise discussion of Hongshan jade pendants including a summary of archaeological evidence and suggestions for further reading see Sin, “A Hongshan Jade Pendant in the Freer Gallery of Art,” Orientations, May 1993, pp. 87–92.
15. **A Neolithic White Marble Owl Form Pendant**

Hongshan Culture, *circa* 3500–2000 B.C.

simply carved from a solid block, the stylized bird with rounded protruding eyes and small pointed beak tucked in at the top of the swelling breast, the feet delineated by short vertical grooves on an undercut ledge above the forward-flaring wedge shaped tail with rounded underside, the outspread wings defined by a shallow groove around the perimeter in front, well rounded in back and ending in two forward-flaring points behind the tail, pierced behind the head with a pair of conical holes joined to form a ‘bull nose’ suspension loop, the fine white marble with some dark stains to the back and earth encrustation all over.

Width 2 3/4 inches (7 cm)

Many carved jade owl pendants of closely related design have been published in archaeological reports on excavations at Hongshan sites and in museum catalogues, but no other example carved from marble appears to have been previously published.

A jade owl form pendant of smaller size excavated from tomb no. 1 at Hutougou, a Hongshan burial site in Fuxin county, Liaoning province and now in the Liaoning Provincial Museum, is illustrated by Gu (ed.), *Zhongguo chuanshi yuqi quanji* (Complete Collection of Jades Unearthed in China), Vol. 2, Inner Mongolia, Liaoning, Jilin, Heilongjiang, Beijing, 2005, p. 116.


新石器時代 紅山白大理石鴞 寬 7 厘米
A White Jade Flat Ring (*Huan*)

Neolithic Period, circa 5000–2000 B.C.

of plain form with wide central aperture, the cream white jade with cloudy beige mottling and a few dark gray natural inclusions, the sides slightly thicker at the center and tapering to the rounded rim, the smooth polished surface with encrusted earth.

Diameter 4 3/8 inches (11.2 cm)

Similar jade rings of this flattened form with wide central aperture have been discovered at several Neolithic sites in China, dating from as early as circa 5000 B.C. to circa 1600 B.C. Compare, for example, the jade flat ring of the same size with similar cloudy mottled surface excavated from Wushan county, Sichuan province, illustrated by Gu (ed.) in *Zhongguo chutu yuqi quanj* (Complete Collection of Jades Unearthed in China), Vol. 13, Sichuan and Chongqing, Beijing, 2005, p. 216, described as Daxi culture (circa 4400–3300 B.C.).

Compare also the similar jade flat rings of slightly smaller size excavated in Jiangsu province and now in the collection of the Nanjing Museum, illustrated in *Zhongguo yuqi quanji* (Compendium of Chinese Jades) Vol. 1, Primitive Society, Shijiazhuang, 1992, pp. 86-87, nos. 121 and 123, described as Songze culture (circa 4000–2500 B.C.).

Two slightly smaller jade rings of flattened form excavated in Gansu province are illustrated by Gu (ed.), *Zhongguo chutu yuqi quanji* (Complete Collection of Jades Unearthed in China), Vol. 15, Gansu, Qinghai, Ningxia, Xinjiang, Beijing, 2005, pp. 14-15, described as Qijia culture (circa 2250–1900 B.C.).
17. A Neolithic Openwork Jade Plaque

Longshan Culture, *circa* 3000–1700 B.C.

elaborately pierced and carved in outline with a stacked symmetrical arrangement of hooks, scrolls, plumes and apertures, the silhouetted shapes all mirrored left and right of center and rising from a short pointed projection at the base to a square opening near the top surmounted by a small winged mask shaped element, the flat surface smoothly polished all over, one side incised with thin lines loosely following the outline of the design, the pale olive green jade with cloudy white and tan mottling throughout.

Length 4 1/4 inches (10.8 cm)

A pair of small Longshan jade plaques very similar to the winged mask shaped uppermost central element of the present plaque, excavated at the Taosi site, a major Longshan culture ruin in Xiangfen county, Shanxi province, is illustrated in Yu hun gao hun yu, yu wenhua, Xia dai Zhongguo wenming zhan (Soul of Jade, Soul of the Nation: Exhibition of Jade, Jade Culture, and the Xia Dynasty Civilization in China), Hangzhou, 2013, p. 89.

Compare also the pair of small jade ‘dragon and phoenix’ plaques carved in a similar openwork silhouette style excavated from tomb no. 14 at the Sunjiagang site, Li county, Hunan province, illustrated by Gu (ed.), Zhongguo chutu yuqi quanji (Complete Collection of Jades Unearthed in China), Vol. 10, Hubei, Hunan, Beijing, 2005, pp. 154 and 155, described as Shijiahe culture (circa 2400–1900 B.C.), contemporary with Longshan culture.

A Longshan jade adze in the Shandong Provincial Museum, decorated on the handle with an elaborate incised mask very similar in style and outline to the uppermost central element of the present plaque is illustrated by Gu (ed.), Zhongguo chutu yuqi quanji (Complete Collection of Jades Unearthed in China), Vol. 4, Shandong, Beijing, 2005, p. 16.

Compare also the Longshan openwork jade plaque of related form, surmounted by an eagle with wings displayed, illustrated by Bai (ed.), Tianjin bowuguan cang yu (Jade Wares Collected by the Tianjin Museum), Beijing, 2012, p. 32, no. 015.

新石器時代 龍山玉飾 長 10.8 厘米
A Green Jade Ceremonial Blade (Gui)

Late Neolithic Period, early 2nd Millennium B.C.

of long narrow shape, thicker at the tang and thinning very gradually towards the slightly flared cutting edge, drilled from one side with a small hole near the butt with partially unfinished rounded end, cut with notches to the edges on either side of the hole and with a well finished semicircle cut out further down on one edge, very finely polished all over to a smooth surface which feels soft to touch, the dark olive green stone with subtle natural markings; Chinese fitted wood box with silk lining.

Length 11 1/4 inches (28.6 cm)

Provenance From the Collection of Eugene Meyer (1875–1959) and Agnes E. Meyer (1887–1970)

Compare three Neolithic jade gui blades in the collection of the Palace Museum, Beijing illustrated in Gugong bowuyuan cangpin daxi: yuqi bian (Compendium of Collections in the Palace Museum: Jade), Vol. 1, Neolithic Age, Beijing, 2011, p. 191, no. 184, described as Longshan Culture; on p. 200, no. 194, described as Qijia Culture; and on p. 247, no. 246, described as Neolithic period.

Compare also the late Neolithic jade gui blade of smaller size, cut with a small semicircular void on the edge of one side, excavated from a Longshan burial site at Shimaos, Shenniu county, Shaanxi province, now in the collection of the Shaanxi History Museum, illustrated in Yu hun guo hun: yuqi, yu wenhua, Xia dai Zhongguo wenming zhan (Soul of Jade, Soul of the Nation: Exhibition of Jade, Jade Culture, and the Xia Dynasty Civilization in China), Hangzhou, 2013, p. 195.

出處 邁爾夫婦舊藏
19. A LARGE CEREMONIAL JADE BLADE (Ge)
Shang Dynasty, circa 13th Century B.C.

in the form of a ge dagger-axe with beveled edges and a well-defined medial ridge on both sides, curving gently down to the tapered point, which is set off-center, the blunt tang carved with pairs of squared teeth at the edge and with associated shallow grooves on both sides above a small circular aperture, the jade of attractive olive-brown color with natural greenish mottling, showing traces of cinnabar.

Length 12½ inches (31.5 cm)

Finely carved jade blades of this distinctive form, following the design of a bronze weapon used by Shang foot soldiers, were important ceremonial emblems of status and power, sometimes presented as tribute offerings, not intended for use in warfare.

Compare the smaller jade blade of closely related form discovered in the tomb of the Shang military general and high priestess Fu Hao (circa 1200 B.C.), illustrated in *Yinxu Fu Hao mu* (Tomb of Lady Hao at Yinxu in Anyang), Beijing, 1980, pl. 108, no. 5, with description on p. 135. Another very similar Shang jade blade formerly in the Collection of A.W. Bahr is illustrated by Loehr, *Ancient Chinese Jades from the Grenville L. Winthrop Collection in the Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge*, 1975, p. 57, no. 35.

For a comprehensive discussion of ceremonial jade blades of the Bronze Age in China, see Rawson, *Chinese Jade from the Neolithic to the Qing*, London, 1991, pp. 192-193, where the author illustrates a similar jade ge in the British Museum on p. 193, fig. 3. See also Wilson, “Lithic Art in the Bronze Age: A Jade Dagger-Axe,” *The Bulletin of the Cleveland Museum of Art*, January 1990, pp. 23-24, where the author illustrates jade blades of closely related form found in the Fu Hao tomb and describes the form as an example of the fully developed Anyang style.
20. **A Jade Bi Disc With Collared Central Aperture**

Shang Dynasty, 13th–12th Century B.C.

of wide flat form, finely incised on both sides with evenly spaced concentric circles in a repeating pattern of three sets of three narrow lines separated by very shallow grooves, and with incised double-lines on the innermost section of the disc encircling the narrow vertical collars on either side of the central aperture, the rims of the collars with roughly squared edges and the outer edge of the disc with rounded lip, the polished surface altered in burial to opaque cloudy tan color, with some widely scattered pitting, the original pale olive green color of the stone showing through on one side.

Diameter 6⅞ inches (17.5 cm)

**Provenance** From the Mariotti Collection, sold by Ader at Hotel Drouot, Paris, 4 December 1952

**Provenance Note**

A jade collared disc of very similar form excavated from the tomb of Fu Hao (d. circa 1200 B.C.) is illustrated in *Yinxu Fu Hao mu* (Tomb of Lady Hao at Yinwu in Anyang), Beijing, 1980, pl. 87, no. 1, with description on p. 119; and a Shang jade disc of similar form and design, unearthed from tomb no. 54 at Huayuanzhuang, Anyang, Henan province, is illustrated by Gu (ed.), *Zhongguo chutu yuqi quanji* (Complete Collection of Jades Unearthed in China), Vol. 5, *Henan*, Beijing, 2006, p. 79.

Another similar jade collared disc unearthed in 1989 from the Shang cemetery at Dayangzhou, Xin’gan, Jiangxi province, illustrated in Shang dai Jiangnan: Jiangxi Xin’gan Dayangzhou chutu wenwu juce (Shang Dynasty in the South of Yangtze River: Selected Relics Unearthed from Dayangzhou, Xin’gan, Jiangxi Province), Beijing, 2006, pp. 214-216.

Compare also the jade collared disc of very similar form excavated at Sansingdui, Guanghan county, Sichuan province, exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York in 2002 and illustrated by Bagley (ed.) in the catalogue of the travelling exhibition entitled Ancient Sichuan: Treasures from a Lost Civilization, Seattle, 2001, p. 172, no. 61, together with line drawings of other similar jade discs ranging in size from 8 to 18 cm which were discovered at the same site.


商 有領玉璧 径 17.5 厘米

出處 Mariotti舊藏，巴黎Ader拍賣會Hotel Drouot於1952年12月4日賣出
21. A Jade Figure Of An Elephant
Shang Dynasty, 12th – 11th Century B.C.

Carved as a free-standing sculpture with thick flattened body, the large head drilled through with a biconical hole for the eyes and carved with wide flat ears in very shallow relief, standing on conjoined short legs, the feet divided by grooves across the base, the broad smooth flanks rising to a rounded backbone which continues down to a large angular tail, the short trunk curled up above a "V"-shaped mouth, the cloudy opaque stone of pale greenish-white tone, the softly polished surface showing remains of encrusted earth.

Length 2½ inches (7.3 cm)

Compare the small jade figure of an elephant unearthed from tomb 1728 at the Shang dynasty royal cemetery site in Xibeigang, Henan province, illustrated by Lee (ed.) in Yinxu chutu qiwu xuancui (Selected Works Unearthed from Yinxu), Taipei, 2009, p. 216, no. 201; and the larger jade elephant of very similar form unearthed from tomb 1567 at the same royal cemetery, illustrated by Lee (ed.), op. cit., pp. 196–197, no. 175.

Compare also the jade figure of an elephant simply carved as a small free-standing silhouette in the collection of the Tianjin City Art Museum illustrated in Tianjin shi yishu bowuguan cang yu (Jades from the Tianjin City Art Museum), Hong Kong, 1993, no. 51.
A Jade Figure Of A Water Buffalo

Shang Dynasty, 12th – 11th Century B.C.

carved as a free-standing sculpture with thick flattened body, the large head with lightly incised round eyes, the blunt muzzle drilled through with a biconical hole for the nostrils, the curved horns with shallow incised ribbing above small leaf shaped ears, the broad smooth flanks rising to a rounded backbone with a hump at the shoulders, the long tail accentuated by small drilled indentations on both sides, standing on wide conjoined legs, the rectangular feet divided by deep grooves across the base, the cloudy opaque stone of slightly mottled pale greenish tone, with softly polished surface.

Length 2½ inches (6.4 cm)

Compare the slightly smaller Shang dynasty jade recumbent buffalo carved in low relief illustrated by Loehr, Ancient Chinese Jades from the Grenville L. Winthrop Collection in the Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge, 1975, p. 125, no. 152.
23. **Eight Small Turquoise Pendants**

Western Zhou Dynasty (1027–771 B.C.)

A silkworm larva with curved, segmented body, two smaller silkworm pupae, a cicada pupa, and a crouching rabbit with long ears, each carved in the round and pierced near the head for stringing, and three variously carved *taotie* masks, each with plain flat polished back and drilled with a vertical channel for stringing, the blue-green turquoise of various shades, with traces of cinnabar and earth remaining.

Lengths ¾ inch –1 17/16 inches (1.9 –3.7 cm)

Compare the turquoise *taotie* mask form ornament of more elaborate design excavated at the site of the late Shang/early Western Zhou cemetery in Qianzhang, Tengzhou, Shandong province illustrated in the catalogue of the special exhibition at the Shenzhen Museum, *Yu shi zhi hun* (Soul of Jade and Stone), Beijing, 2013, p. 139.

Compare also the small *taotie* mask form pendant carved from jade unearthed from the Western Zhou cemetery at Zhangjiapo, Fengxi, Shanxi province, illustrated *op. cit.*, p. 92.

A similarly carved jade pendant in the form of a crouching rabbit unearthed from the late Shang/early Western Zhou cemetery at Qianzhang, Tengzhou, Shandong province is illustrated *op. cit.*, p. 137.

A small jade cicada pendant very similar to the present example unearthed from a Western Zhou site at Tangcheng huayuan, Luoyang, Henan province is illustrated in *Luoyang guyu tupu* (Illustrated Catalogue of Ancient Jades from Luoyang), Zhengzhou, 2004, p. 79, no. 81.
24. **Two Jade Fluted Cylinders**
Shang Dynasty, 13th–12th Century B.C.

Each well-carved with six shallow flutes on the exterior of the thin straight walls, the interiors plain and well-polished, one cylinder with a narrow projecting flange carved with four blunt teeth around the waist and with slightly thicker rims at both ends, both cylinders made from very similar jade of pale greenish-tan color.

Height 1 ½ inches (3.9 cm) each

A similar jade fluted cylinder with toothed flange around the waist unearthed from the tomb of Fu Hao (d. circa 1200 B.C.) at Anyang, Henan province is illustrated in the excavation report *Yinxu Fu Hao mu* (Tomb of Lady Hao at Yinxu in Anyang), Beijing, 1980, col. pl. 37, no. 1, with description on p. 187. Another jade fluted cylinder of similar form with flange around the waist unearthed in 1977 at Anyang, Henan province, from tomb no. 18, is illustrated in *Zhongguo yuqi quanjí* (Compendium of Chinese Jades) Vol. 2, *Shang and Western Zhou*, Shijiazhuang, 1993, p. 81, no. 107, with description on p. 255.

Compare also the two jade fluted cylinders unearthed from the tomb of Fu Hao and illustrated in the excavation report, op cit., pl. 154, no. 6, with an ink rubbing of each illustrated on p. 186, pl. 93, nos. 18 and 18, and descriptions on p. 187, and two jade fluted cylinders illustrated by Loehr, *Ancient Chinese Jades from the Grenville L. Winthrop Collection in the Fogg Art Museum*, Harvard University, Cambridge, 1975, p. 136, nos. 171–172.

商 圆篐形玉飾二件 各高 3.9 厘米
25. A Jade Notched Disc (Yabi)

Late Neolithic Period/Shang Dynasty, circa 2000–1500 B.C.

with wide central circular aperture, the narrow flat sides carved as three conjoined arcs, each rising to a wedge shaped point and with pairs of blunt notched teeth carved on each of the three arcs, all evenly spaced and symmetrically arranged around the outer rim, the inner rim plain and simply rounded, the pale grayish-white jade encrusted with cinnabar and burial earth.

Diameter 4 1/4 inches (10.8 cm)

This rare type of bi disc with notched and serrated rim was identified as a xuanji (璇璣) by the Chinese scholar-collector Wu Dacheng in his description of a similar notched disc illustrated in the catalogue of his collection, the Gu yu tu kao, published in 1889. Wu's identification was based on his interpretation of a section of the Shangshu (Classic of History), a pre-Qin dynasty text containing a reference to a turning sphere (xuanji璇璣) to be used in conjunction with a jade transverse sighting tube (yuheng玉衡) for astronomical observations by court astronomers. This identification and description of the use of ancient jade notched discs was widely accepted and elaborated upon by Chinese and Western scholars during the following decades, but no archaeological evidence to support the theory has ever been found. Modern scholars, led by Xia Nai, have repudiated the theory and argued convincingly for the term xuanji to be abandoned and replaced by the term yabi (牙璧). See "The Classification, Nomenclature, and Usage of Shang Dynasty Jades" by Xia Nai, published in Kungyu, 1983, No. 5, pp. 455-467. The same monograph was presented by Xia at the International Conference on Shang Civilization, Hawaii, 1982, and is published in English by Chang (ed.), Studies of Shang Archaeology, New Haven, 1986, Chapter 9, pp. 207-236.

A slightly smaller jade yabi, with pairs of blunt notched teeth carved on each of the three arcs, excavated from a Longshan Culture (circa 3000–1700 B.C.) site at Tengxiang, Shandong province, is illustrated by Xia, Kaogu xuebao, 1984, No. 4, pl. 21, with a stone example from a late Shang burial at Anyang, Henan province, loc. cit., pl. 1. The same jade yabi is illustrated in color in Zhongguo yuqi quanji (Compendium of Chinese Jades), Vol. 1, Primitive Society, Shijiazhuang, 1992, p. 34, col. pl. 42. Another similar jade yabi in the collection of the Palace Museum, Beijing, is illustrated in Guangong bowuyuan cang wenwu zhenpin quanji (The Complete Collection of Treasures of the Palace Museum), Jindaihua 1 (Hong Kong, 1995), p. 58, no. 49; and another similar yabi in the collection of the Kaifeng Museum is illustrated by Gu (ed.), Zhongguo chuanshi yuqi quanji (Chinese Jades in Traditional Collections), Vol. 1, Neolithic Period, Shang, Western Zhou, Spring and Autumn Period, Warring States Period, Beijing, 2010, p. 84.


For a comprehensive discussion of yabi discs excavated in China, see Luan, "Yabi yanjiu (Researches on Yabi)," Wenwu, 2005, No. 7, pp. 69-81.
26. Two Matching Jade Arc Shaped Dragon Pendants (Huang)
Western Zhou Dynasty (1027–771 B.C.)

Each large, thick pendant decorated on both sides with incised double-line meander of hooked, spurred and curled scroll motifs below a narrow segmented 'backbone' incised on the outer rim, the larger pendant with a horned dragon head carved in silhouette at one end, detailed with incised outlines of large eyes, 'D'-shaped ears and short limbs, the opposite end simply carved as a curled tail, the companion pendant following the same plan but with less detail, the dragon's head indicated by a round eye and a blunt snout at one end, the tail at the opposite end indicated by a tightly curled hook, both pendants pierced for suspension with holes at the center of the outer rim and both ends, carved from olive green jade with natural passages of dark brown and pale tan mottling, with traces of encrusted earth and cinnabar.

Lengths 6 and 5⅜ inches (15.2 and 14.3 cm)

Compare the arc shaped jade dragon pendant of very similar outline, incised with similar double-line scroll meander and details, excavated from a late Shang dynasty tomb at Qianzhangda, Tengzhou city, Shandong province, illustrated by Gu (ed.), Zhongguo chutu yuqi quanji (Complete Collection of Jades Unearthed in China), Vol. 4, Shandong, Beijing, 2005, p. 91.
27. A Jade, Agate And Quartz Pectoral Ornament
Western Zhou Dynasty (1027–771 B.C.)

The thick *tixingpai* (梯形牌) plaque of trapezoidal outline carved from pale yellowish-green jade, decorated on both sides with a highly stylized linear motif of a cicada with wings displayed on either side of the heart shaped thorax and short arms ending in claws raised beside the head, the upper and lower edges of the plaque drilled with a series of ‘bull nose’ holes suspending four long double strands and one shorter single strand of red, orange and pale yellowish beads carved from carnelian agate and quartz.

Length of reassembled pectoral set 15 inches (38 cm)
Length of *tixingpai* jade plaque 2⅜ inches (7 cm)

A similarly carved jade *tixingpai* trapezoidal plaque suspending multiple strands of colorful beads is illustrated by Rawson, “Ordering the Exotic: Ritual Practices in the Late Western and Early Eastern Zhou,” *Artibus Asiae*, 2013, LXXIII:1, figs. 26b, 37a, 38, where the author notes it was found in the tomb of a female consort of a Rui lord excavated at the site of the 8th century cemetery of the Rui State at Liangdai village, Hancheng City, Shanxi province. Rawson goes on to say that *tixingpai* and beads pectoral ornament sets evidently first appeared in the 10th century B.C. in the tombs of high-ranking females and the use of long strands of biconical agate and other beads strung to create horizontal bands of different colors suggests the influence of Western, non-Zhou tribes. The same *tixingpai* and beads pectoral ornament set was previously published in *Wenwu*, 2008, No. 1, p. 10, fig. 19.

Rawson illustrates two more jade *tixingpai* and beads pectoral ornament sets excavated from female tombs at the site of the Western Zhou cemetery of the Jin State at Beizhao, Taima-Qucun, Shanxi province, with burials dated to Western Zhou and early Eastern Zhou, op. cit., fig. 27. The same pectoral ornament sets are illustrated in *Wenwu*, 1994, No. 6, pp. 28-30, figs. 3, 8, and in *Wenwu*, 1995, No. 7, pp. 18–19, fig. 20.

Another similar Western Zhou *tixingpai* trapezoidal jade pendant and beads pectoral ornament set excavated from the Ying State cemetery at Pingdingshan, Henan province, and now in the Henan Provincial Museum is illustrated by Gu (ed.), *Zhongguo chutu yuqi quanji* (Complete Collection of Jades Unearthed in China), Vol. 5, Henan, Beijing, 2005, p. 177.

西周 雲紋玉牌串珠珮飾 總長 38 厘米 梯形牌長 7 厘米
28. **Eleven Petal Shaped Jade Ornaments**

Western Zhou Dynasty (1027–771 B.C.)

Each small ovoid plaque decorated on both sides with incised concentric flower petal outlines rising to a small point and with three double-lines below, drilled at either end for stringing, the grayish-white jade showing remains of earth and cinnabar.

Lengths ¾–1 inch (2.1–2.5 cm)

Jade ornaments of similar form with incised linear decoration are described as part of the ornament on a veil or face cover excavated from the Western Zhou cemetery of the Jin State at Tianma-Qucun, Shanxi province, are illustrated by Gu (ed.), *Zhongguo chutu yuqi quanji* (Complete Collection of Jades Unearthed in China), Vol. 3, Shanxi, Beijing, 2005, p. 85.

西周 花瓣形玉飾十一件 長 2.1 – 2.5 厘米

29. **Fourteen Jade Beads With Incised Dragon Designs**

Western Zhou Dynasty (1027–771 B.C.)

Of irregular flattened tubular form, each incised with a dissolved dragon motif in linear style continuing over all sides, the grayish-green jade showing remains of earth and cinnabar.

Lengths ¾–1⅝ inches (1.6 – 3.1 cm)

Three Zhou dynasty jade beads of similar form carved with dissolved dragon motifs excavated at Shangguo, Wenxi county, Shanxi province and now in the Shanxi Provincial Museum are illustrated by Gu (ed.), *Zhongguo chutu yuqi quanji* (Complete Collection of Jades Unearthed in China), Vol. 3, Shanxi, Beijing, 2005, p. 166.

西周 龍紋玉珠十四件 長 1.6 – 3.1 厘米
30. **A Plain Jade Disc (Bi)**
Western Zhou Dynasty (1027–771 B.C.)

with smoothly polished sides tapering slightly toward the outer rim, the wide central aperture cut from one side, the jade of translucent yellowish tone with gray and brown mottling, showing remains of earth and cinnabar.

Diameter 4 1/2 inches (11.5 cm)

Compare the slightly larger plain jade *bi* of similar form in the National Palace Museum, Taipei illustrated in Gugong huanxing yuqi tezhan tulu (A Catalogue of the National Palace Museum’s Special Exhibition of Circular Jade), Taipei, 1995, pp. 84-85, no. 45, described as Western Zhou.

西周 玉壁 徑 11.5 厘米

31. **Five Jade Silkworm Form Pendants**
Western Zhou Dynasty (1027–771 B.C.)

each carved from translucent pale greenish jade, with button shaped eyes and tapering segmented body, drilled through the head for stringing and showing remains of cinnabar.

Lengths 1 1/4–1 1/2 inches (3.7 – 2.7 cm)

Compare the group of silkworm form pendants of similar design excavated at the Western Zhou Yu State burial site at Zhuyuangou, Baoji, Shaanxi province, illustrated by Lu and Hu, Baoji Yuguo mudi (Yu State Cemeteries in Baoji), Vol. 2, Beijing, 1988, pl. 139, nos. 2 and 3.

西周 玉蠶五件 長 3.7–2.7 厘米
32. **A Jade Bovine Mask Form Ornament**  
Western Zhou Dynasty (1027–771 B.C.)  
the angled front incised with the outline of a stylized bovine head, drilled through the center between the curled horns and round eyes, the reverse plain and concave, with cinnabar red filling the incised lines in contrast to the olive green jade.  
Length 1 7/8 inches (3.7 cm)  
Compare the Shang jade animal mask ornament illustrated by Gu (ed.), *Zhongguo chuanshi yuqi quanji* (Chinese Jades in Traditional Collections) Vol. 1, Neolithic Period, Shang, Western Zhou, Spring and Autumn Period, Warring States Period, Beijing, 2010, p. 109, where the author notes that the angled shape suggests the plaque was carved from the corner of a cong. Compare also the similar jade animal head form ornament excavated at a Western Zhou site in Fuling county, Shaanxi province, and shown in a reassembled string of jade beads and ornaments in Gu (ed.), *Zhongguo chutu yuqi quanji* (Complete Collection of Jades Unearthed in China), Vol. 14, Shaanxi, Beijing, 2005, p. 73.

33. **A Jade Ox Head Form Ornament**  
Western Zhou Dynasty (1027–771 B.C.)  
carved in simplified frontal silhouette, with blunt horns above notched ears and incised oval eyes, smoothly rounded in front, flat at the back and drilled through the center, the pale olive green stone shading to brown at the muzzle and showing remains of cinnabar.  
Length 1 1/8 inches (2.7 cm)  
Compare the jade ox head ornament of similar form in the Baoji Museum of Bronze Relics excavated at the Western Zhou Yu State burial site at Zhuyuangou, Baoji, Shaanxi province, illustrated by Lu and Hu, *Baoji Yuguo mudi* (Yu State Cemeteries in Baoji), Vol. 2, Beijing, 1988, pl. 139.1. Compare also the jade ox head form ornament excavated at the late Shang capital at Anyang, Henan province, illustrated in *Anyang Yinxu chutu yuqi* (Jades from Yinxu), Beijing, 2005, p. 33.

34. **A Jade Cicada Form Pendant**  
Western Zhou Dynasty (1027–771 B.C.)  
of thick, rounded form with ribbed neck and bulging eyes, pierced through the nose, drilled longitudinally for stringing and pierced through the edges of the wings, the underside concave, the pale greenish jade with smooth polished surface showing remains of cinnabar.  
Length 1 1/8 inches (3.8 cm)  
A similar jade cicada form pendant excavated at Qianzhangda, Tengzhou city, Shandong province is illustrated by Gu (ed.), *Zhongguo chutu yuqi quanji* (Complete Collection of Jades Unearthed in China), Vol. 4, Shandong, Beijing, 2005, p. 149, described as late Shang dynasty. Compare also the jade cicada form pendant excavated from the late Western Zhou cemetery of the Guo State, at Sanmenxia city, Henan province, illustrated by Gu (ed.), *Zhongguo chutu yuqi quanji* (Complete Collection of Jades Unearthed in China), Vol. 5, Henan, Beijing, 2005, p. 162.
35. **Five Jade Entwined Dragon And Bird Plaques**  
Western Zhou Dynasty (1027–771 B.C.)

each pierced and carved with the highly simplified angular silhouette of a dragon head at one end and a bird head at the opposite end, the bodies conjoined at the center, incised with linear details and oval ‘eyes’ on one side, the reverse plain and drilled with tiny perforations for stringing across the angles at the edges, the pale olive green jade showing remains of earth and cinnabar.

Lengths 1 1/2 – 2 1/8 inches (5.4 – 4.8 cm)

Compare the very similar jade plaques strung in a collar discovered at the Western Zhou cemetery of the Jin State at the Tianma-Qucun site, Shanxi province, illustrated on the cover of Wenwu, 1995, No. 7, and in the excavation report on pp. 35–36. The same collar is illustrated by Gu (ed.), Zhongguo chutu yuqi quanji (Complete Collection of Jades Unearthed in China), Vol. 3, Shanghai, Beijing, 2005, p. 136.

西周 龍鳳紋玉珮五件 長5.4－4.8厘米

36. **Five Jade Plaques Of ‘Tied Bundle’ Form**  
Western Zhou Dynasty (1027–771 B.C.)

each carved on one side with clusters of three conjoined panels incised with parallel lines emerging above and below a deeply grooved central transverse band, which may be interpreted as a tied bundle of silk, the reverse plain and drilled with tiny perforations for stringing across the angles at the edges, the pale olive green jade showing remains of earth and cinnabar.

Length 1 1/4 inches (4.3 cm) each

Compare the jade plaques of this form strung in a collar of jades and agates discovered at the Western Zhou cemetery of the Gu State and now in the collection of the Shanghai Museum, illustrated by Zhang in Shanghai bowuguan cangpin yanjiu daxi: Zhongguo gudai yuqi (Research Series of the Shanghai Museum Collection: Ancient Chinese Jades), Shanghai, 2009, p. 124, no. 87, with description on p. 121, where the author suggests this form of jade plaque may be intended to represent a tied bundle of silk.

Compare also the jade plaques of similar form and design strung in a long necklace or pectoral of various jade ornaments excavated at the Western Zhou cemetery of the Jin State at the Tianma-Qucun site, Shanxi province, illustrated in Wenwu, 1995, No. 7, inside cover and on p. 16.

西周 束絹形玉珮五件 長4.3厘米
37. **An Incised Jade Tiger Form Plaque**

Western Zhou Dynasty (1027–771 B.C.)

carved as a stylized silhouette, the tiger shown crouching with tail extended, the large head with ears pinned back and jaws open showing pointed fangs, finely incised on both sides with linear details and ornamentation including large lozenge shaped eyes, double-line hooked scroll motifs for the ribs, shoulders and haunches, 'D'-shaped ornament on the tail and long straight claws, all within a single line border, with cinnabar filling the incised decoration, giving strong contrast to the onion-green jade which now shows cloudy tan color in some areas, the tail drilled from both sides.

Length 4 3/4 inches (10.8 cm)

Compare the plain tiger form plaque similarly carved as a silhouette excavated at the site of the Western Zhou Yan State cemetery at Liulihe, Hebei province, illustrated in Liulihe Xi Zhou Yan guo mudi (Yan State Cemetery of the Western Zhou Period at Liulihe), Beijing, 1995, pl. 100, no. 1, with description on pp. 231–232 and a line drawing on p. 234, pl. 143, no. 1.

38. **A White Jade Peacock Plaque**

Western Zhou Dynasty (1027–771 B.C.)

of slightly tapered *tīxingpái* (梯形牌) form, very finely carved on both sides with a mythic crested bird with hooked beak shown in profile surrounded by a long stylized tail showing the ‘eye’ pattern of a peacock’s feathers and curled into a wide spiral, with narrow perforated flanges along two edges for stringing, the jade of even cream white tone with smooth polished surface, traces of earth and cinnabar remaining in the incised lines.

Height 2¾ inches (5.9 cm)
Width 2¼ inches (5.7 cm)

Provenance
- J. T. Tai & Co., New York
- C. T. Loo & Co., New York
- Collection of D. David-Weill (1871–1952), Paris, No. DW35/46
- C.T. Loo & Co., New York

Exhibited
- *Arts de la Chine Ancienne*, Musée de l’Orangerie, Paris, 1937

Published

An early Western Zhou jade plaque of very similar form carved with closely related crested bird motifs in the Hotung Collection, now on display in the British Museum, is illustrated by Rawson, *Chinese Jade from the Neolithic to the Qing*, London, 1995, p. 49, fig. 37a, b.
39. **A Gray Jade Double Masks Pendant**

Western Zhou Dynasty (1027–771 B.C.)

The thick oblong plaque decorated on both sides with two registers, each filled with a pair of addorsed masks with large eyes and dissolved features joined by a deep ‘U’-shape fall of long hair, separated by a plain band bordered by double-lines at the center and with zig-zag pattern incised above and below, drilled with a longitudinal channel and pierced across the edges at either end for stringing, the jade of silvery grayish tone showing remains of earth and cinnabar.

Length 2 3/8 inches (5.9 cm)

西周 獸面紋玉飾 長 5.9 厘米

40. **A Pale Green Jade Coiled Dragon Ornament**

Western Zhou Dynasty (1027–771 B.C.)

The small plaque of irregular outline, incised on one side with a dragon head in profile surrounded by a slender coiled serpent body, the reverse plain and polished smooth, drilled through the center, showing traces of cinnabar in the incised lines.

Width 1 1/8 inches (2.7 cm)

A small jade plaque incised with twin dragon heads in a very similar style, excavated from the site of the late Western Zhou/early Spring and Autumn period cemetery of the Huang State at Baoxiangsi, Guangshan county, Henan province is illustrated in Kaogu, 1984, No. 4, p. 315, pl. 17, no. 33, with description on p. 316. Compare also the jade ornament with incised design of a coiled phoenix carved in a very similar style, drilled through the center, in the collection of the Palace Museum, Beijing, illustrated in Gugong bowuyuan cangpin daxi: yuqi bian (Compendium of Collections in the Palace Museum: Jade), Vol. 2, Xia, Shang, Zhou, Beijing, 2011, p. 222, no. 259, described as Western Zhou.

西周 龍紋玉飾 寬 2.7 厘米

41. **A Pair Of Jade Cicada Pendants**

Late Shang/ early Western Zhou Dynasty, circa 11th Century B.C.

Each with round eyes, small head, and slender tapered body, carved with two pairs of grooves across the middle of the plain folded wings, the underside with a tapered vertical channel, the shape indicating the jade may have been repurposed in antiquity, the tiny beak-shaped mouth pierced horizontally, the translucent jade of very pale olive tone, showing remains of earth and cinnabar.

Lengths 1 3/8 inches (4.4 and 4.5 cm)

Compare the late Shang/early Western Zhou jade cicada pendant of related form with round eyes and pierced beak shaped mouth illustrated by Rawson, Chinese Jade from the Neolithic to the Qing, London, 1995, p. 224, no. 12.23.

商晚期 / 西周早期 蟬形玉墜一對 長 4.4, 4.5 厘米
42. **A Green Jade Fish Form Pendant**
Western Zhou Dynasty (1027–771 B.C.)
Incised on both sides with a large round eye and gills, a long dorsal fin on the back and two shorter fins on the belly, the tail forked, the snout pierced, with remains of cinnabar.
Length 3 ¼ inches (8.5 cm)

43. **A Yellowish-Green Jade Dragon Form Pendant**
Late Shang/ early Western Zhou Dynasty, circa 11th Century B.C.
With plain body and curled tail, the short leg tucked under the large head with blunt horn, pierced through the mouth, the yellowish-green jade with traces of cinnabar.
Length 2 ¼ inches (5.3 cm)

44. **An Olive Green Jade Dragon Form Pendant**
Late Shang/ early Western Zhou Dynasty, circa 11th Century B.C.
Shown in profile with hooked tail and short leg, a large eye below the blunt horn, and linked angular scrolls on the body, drilled through the mouth, the pale green jade with remains of earth and cinnabar.
Length 2 1/8 inches (6.8 cm)
A similar pendant excavated from the tomb of Fu Hao (d. circa 1200 B.C.) at Anyang, Henan province is illustrated by Gu (ed.), *Zhongguo chutu yuqi quanji* (Complete Collection of Jades Unearthed in China), Vol. 5, Henan, Beijing, 2005, p. 38.

45. **A Jade Bird Form Pendant**
Western Zhou Dynasty (1027–771 B.C.)
Shown in silhouette, the eye pierced, the pale yellowish jade showing traces of cinnabar.
Length 1 ½ inches (3.6 cm)
A similar pendant excavated at Liutaizi, Jiangxi province, is illustrated in *Zhongguo yuqi quanji* (Compendium of Chinese Jades), Vol. 2, Shang and Western Zhou, Shijiazhuang, 1993, p. 181, no. 252.
46. **A Jade Ornament With Entwined Human Heads and Dragons Design**

Western Zhou Dynasty (1027–771 B.C.)

the thick plaque of irregular outline, finely incised on the rounded front with two dragon heads and two human heads rising from serpentine bodies entwined around a central piercing, the reverse plain, with remains of cinnabar filling the incised lines in contrast with the pale olive green jade.

Length 2 3/4 inches (5.8 cm)

A similar jade ornament discovered in a Western Zhou burial site at Huangdi village, Fufeng county, Baoji prefecture, Shaanxi province, is illustrated in the excavation report in *Wenwu*, 1986, No. 8, Fig. 34, with an ink rubbing on p. 63, no. 27. The same pendant is illustrated by Gu (ed.), *Zhongguo chutu yuqi quanji* (Complete Collection of Jades Unearthed in China), Vol. 14, Shannxi, Beijing, 2005, p. 75.

西周 人首龍紋玉佩 長 5.8 厘米

47. **An Openwork Jade Entwined Dragons Ornament**

Western Zhou Dynasty (1027–771 B.C.)

the thin plaque with slightly rounded front, pierced and carved with four dragons with long snouts encircling a small central aperture, the reverse plain, with incised outlines enhanced by remains of cinnabar red in contrast with the translucent gray-green jade.

Length 1 11/16 cm (4.3 cm)

Compare the Western Zhou openwork jade ornament of similar form and design illustrated by Yang, *Chinese Archaic Jades from the Kwan Collection*, Hong Kong, 1994, no. 136, where the author refers to another similar openwork jade ornament excavated at Tanghu, Xinzheng county, Henan province.

西周 夔龍鏤空玉珮 長 4.3 厘米

48. **A Jade Ornament Carved With A Human Face**

Western Zhou Dynasty (1027–771 B.C.)

repurposed from the upper part of a longer pendant, the thick truncated plaque carved on both sides with a stylized human head outlined in profile and detailed with large eyes, broad nose, pursed lips and a crest of long curled hair, his hands clasped under his chin, incised with a border of tight scroll motifs at the back of the head, cut off at the base and drilled through the center, the olive green jade with remains of cinnabar.

Length 1 1/2 inches (3.7 cm)

西周 人首形玉飾 長 3.7 厘米
49. A White Jade Handle Shape Plaque  
Western Zhou Dynasty (1027–771 B.C.)  
carved on one side with the profile image of a crested bird with hooked beak encircled by its own long spiral-scrolled tail feathers, the reverse plain with holes at either end, the greenish-white jade showing remains of earth and cinnabar.  
Length 2 1/8 inches (5.4 cm)  
Compare the similarly decorated plaque excavated at Liulhe, Beijing, illustrated by Gu (ed.), Zhongguo chutu yuqi quanjji (Complete Collection of Jades Unearthed in China), Vol. 1, Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Beijing, 2005, p. 5.

50. A White Jade Ornament  
Western Zhou Dynasty (1027–771 B.C.)  
decorated on both sides with the profile image of a kneeling figure with scroll designs on the torso and long hair rising from the top of the head, with holes for stringing at either end, the grayish-white jade with remains of earth and cinnabar.  
Length 2 3/4 inches (7 cm)  

51. A White Jade Human Figure And Dragons Pendant  
Western Zhou Dynasty (1027–771 B.C.)  
carved on both sides with the profile head of a man crowned by long hair swept up and falling straight down behind, the body formed by two large dragon heads stacked and interlaced, with a conical aperture through the hair, the white jade showing remains of cinnabar.  
Length 2 1/4 inches (5.8 cm)  
Compare the pendant excavated at Tianma–Qucun, Shanxi province, illustrated in Henshu, 1994, No. 8, pp. 16 and 18, fig 26.3.

52. A White Jade Human Head And Dragon-Fish Pendant  
Western Zhou Dynasty (1027–771 B.C.)  
carved on both sides with the head of a man of simian appearance, shown in profile, the body covered by a large dragon head and ending in a short fish tail, drilled with a tiny aperture at the top, the translucent white jade showing remains of earth and cinnabar.  
Length 2 1/4 inches (5.8 cm)  
Compare the two pendants unearthed at Fengxi, Zhangjiapo, Shaanxi province, illustrated in the catalogue of the special exhibition at the Shenzhen Museum, Yu shi zhi hun (Soul of Jade and Stone), Beijing, 2013, pp. 76 and 78.
53. **A Pale Gray-Green Jade Pendant (Huang)**
Western Zhou Dynasty (1027–771 B.C.)

The thick plaque carved on each side with a pair of fantastic beasts with horned human heads shown in profile at opposite ends of the arc, the bodies decorated with ‘D’-shaped scales and scroll motifs in double-outline, pierced at each end, the pale green jade showing some natural dark brown coloration, with remains of earth and cinnabar.

Length 4 3/4 inches (10.6 cm)


54. **An Incised Jade Slit Ring (Jue)**
Western Zhou Dynasty (1027–771 B.C.)

Incised on one side with dragon heads dissolved into scroll motifs interspersed with oval ‘eyes’, the reverse plain and polished, the pale onion-green jade with remains of cinnabar and earth.

Diameter 1 1/16 inches (4.3 cm)

Compare the pair of jade jue in the British Museum illustrated by Rawson, Chinese Jade from the Neolithic to the Qing, London, 1995, p. 243, no. 14:9, where the author mentions that the Eastern Zhou jue show the influence of Western Zhou prototypes.

55. **A Small White Jade Owl Form Pendant**
Shang Dynasty, 12th–11th Century B.C.

Shown in profile with folded wings and short tail, the crested head with hooked beak, lightly incised with a round eye and scroll motifs on both sides, pierced through the beak, the translucent white jade with traces of cinnabar.

Height 1 1/4 inches (3.2 cm)

A similar jade owl form pendant discovered in the tomb of Fu Hao (d. circa 1200 B.C.) is illustrated in Yinxu Fu Hao mu (Tomb of Lady Hao at Yinxu in Anyang), Beijing, 1980, pl. 139, no. 3. Another small jade pendant of closely related form and decoration is illustrated by Rawson, Chinese Jade from the Neolithic to the Qing, London, 1995, p. 225, no. 12:25, described as Shang.

56. **An Incised Jade Slit Ring (Jue)**
Western Zhou Dynasty (1027–771 B.C.)

Incised on one side with two confronted dragons with entwined tails, interspersed with oval ‘eyes’, the reverse side plain and polished, the pale onion-green jade with remains of cinnabar and earth.

Diameter 1 1/4 inches (3.1 cm)

A pair of very similar jade jue in the National Palace Museum, Taipei is illustrated by Teng (ed.), Art in Quest of Heaven and Truth—Chinese Jades Through the Ages, Taipei, 2012, p. 80, pl. 5-5-6, described as late Western Zhou.
57. **A Jade Arc Shaped Ornament With Crested Birds**
Western Zhou Dynasty (1027–771 B.C.)

the shallow arc decorated with a confronted pair of birds surrounded by their own drooping crests and curled tail plumage incised in double-line technique, the underside plain and polished, with tiny perforations at either end, the pale greenish jade with traces of cinnabar.

Length 2 1/4 inches (5.6 cm)

Compare the Western Zhou birds amidst plumage incised in a very similar style on a small jade cong excavated at Zhangjiapo, Chang’an, Shaanxi province illustrated by Gu (ed.), *Zhongguo chutu yuqi quanji* (Complete Collection of Jades Unearthed in China), Vol. 14, Shaanxi, Beijing, 2005, p. 43.

西周 鳳紋玉飾 長 5.6 厘米

58. **A Miniature Jade Cong**
Western Zhou Dynasty (1027–771 B.C.)

probably made as a pendant, the plain squared cylinder with waisted sides and projecting shoulders below the mouth at both ends, the pale greenish-white and russet-brown jade with polished surface showing traces of cinnabar.

Length 1 1/16 inches (3 cm)


Compare also the slightly smaller cong shaped jade bead in the Sanmenxia Museum, excavated from the Guo State cemetery at Sanmenxia, Henan province, illustrated by Gu (ed.), *Zhongguo chutu yuqi quanji* (Complete Collection of Jades Unearthed in China), Vol. 5, Henan, Beijing, 2005, p. 168, described as late Western Zhou.

西周 小玉琮 長 3 厘米

59. **A Jade Finial With Turquoise Inlay**
Western Zhou Dynasty (1027–771 B.C.)

of truncated conical form, with slightly waisted sides flaring to a flat circular top inlaid with a turquoise disc at the center, the sides incised with a double-line collar below the rim and widely spaced curving and slanting lines ending short of the tapered base, a wide central longitudinal channel pierced from below, the pale yellowish-white jade showing remains of earth and cinnabar.

Length 1 1/8 inches (2.9 cm)

Compare the jade finial of very similar form attached to a long hollow jade hairpin, now in the Henan Provincial Museum, excavated at Xiasi, Xichuan county, Henan province, illustrated by Gu (ed.), *Zhongguo chutu yuqi quanji* (Complete Collection of Jades Unearthed in China), Vol. 5, Henan, Beijing, 2005, p. 196. The same hairpin was illustrated in the excavation report, *Xichuan Xiasi Chunqiu Chu mu* (Chu Tombs of the Spring-Autumn Period at Xiasi, Xichuan), Beijing, 1991, pl. 40, no. 1, with line drawings on p. 101, pl. 83, no. 5.

西周 鑲綠松石玉簪帽 長 2.9 厘米
60. **A Small Jade Crouching Tiger Pendant**  
Western Zhou Dynasty (1027–771 B.C.)  
of arc shape, the body softly contoured, the legs held in close with tail curled and mouth open,  
drilled through the jaw with an aperture for stringing, the pale greenish-white jade of even tone.  
Length 1 1/8 inches (4.1 cm)  
Compare the very similar pendant excavated at Anyang, Henan province, illustrated by Gu (ed.), Zhongguo chutu yuqi quanji (Complete Collection of Jades Unearthed in China), Vol. 5 Henan, Beijing 2005, p. 78, described as late Shang dynasty with the author's suggestion that it is a segment of a bracelet which was recarved in antiquity.

61. **A Small Jade Bead In The Form Of A Recumbent Buffalo**  
Late Shang / early Western Zhou Dynasty, circa 11th Century B.C.  
with legs gathered under, the blunt head with incised eyes, short horns and small ears, drilled  
through the length of the body, the pale greenish jade with remains of cinnabar.  
Length 5/8 inch (1.6 cm)  
Compare the jade bead in the form of a buffalo in the collection of the Tianjin City Art Museum, illustrated in Zhongguo yuqi quanji (Compendium of Chinese Jades), Vol. 2, Shang and Western Zhou, Shijiazhuang, 1993, p. 134, no. 183, described on p. 280 as late Shang. Two similarly carved jade beads attributed to the Shang dynasty and described as crouching rabbits are illustrated by Rawson, Chinese jade from the Neolithic to the Qing, London, 1995, p. 230, no. 12.36.

62. **A White Jade Cicada Form Pendant**  
Late Shang / early Western Zhou Dynasty, circa 11th Century B.C.  
with plump segmented body and bulging eyes, the wings with incised outlines and scroll motifs, a  
pierced tab for stringing on the underside, the white jade with traces of cinnabar.  
Length 5/8 inch (2.4 cm)  
Compare the very similar jade cicada form pendant published by So, Chinese Jades from the Cissy and Robert Tang Collection, Hong Kong, 2015, p. 68, no. 10a, described as late Shang / early Western Zhou.

63. **A Jade Tortoise Shell Form Bead**  
Western Zhou Dynasty (1027–771 B.C.)  
the shell incised with lozenge pattern, the underside incised with scroll and chevron motifs, with  
grooved open ends and drilled longitudinally, the jade of even pale green tone.  
Length 3/4 inch (2 cm)  
64. A WHITE JADE ARC SHAPED PENDANT (HUANG)
Eastern Zhou Dynasty, 4th–3rd Century B.C.

of broad, gently curved form, recut in antiquity from a circular bi disc, finely carved on both sides with an all over grid pattern of comma-spirals in high relief above a highly polished ground enclosed by canted borders and flat polished edges along the inner and outer rims, the blunt ends each with a squared inset at the center and pierced with two tiny holes for suspension, the white jade of very pale greenish tint with tan and brown streaks.

Length 6 inches (15.3 cm)


Compare also the jade huang pendant illustrated by Loehr in *Ancient Chinese Jades from the Grenville L. Winthrop Collection in the Fogg Art Museum*, Harvard University, Cambridge, 1975, p. 331, no. 485.

東周 穀紋玉璜 長 15.3 厘米
65. **A MOTTLED GREEN JADE STANDING FIGURE**
Late Eastern Zhou/Qin Dynasty, 3rd Century B.C.

the highly simplified human figure carved from a slightly tapered thick quadrangular block, the oval head with flat face very lightly incised with eyes, nose and mouth, an incised band cut straight across the torso and joined to sloping grooves on the sides to indicate the folded arms, the dark green jade with lighter mottling throughout, remains of earth and cinnabar on the softly polished surface.

Height 4 3/4 inches (12.1 cm)

Two similarly carved small stone figures with highly simplified block form bodies and incised facial features discovered at the late Eastern Zhou site of Qin Gong cemetery at Fengxiang, Shaanxi province are illustrated in line drawings published in Wenwu, 1983, No. 7, p. 36, nos. 12 and 13.

Compare also the green jade simplified plaque form figures with incised facial features unearthed at Lujiaokou and Lianzhicun in the northern suburbs of Xi'an city, Shaanxi province illustrated in Shaanxi chutu Dong Zhou yuqi (Eastern Zhou Jades Unearthed in Shaanxi), Beijing, 2006, pp. 204-205, nos. GW11-GW22, described as late Warring States period.

Two similar very simply carved plaque form figures each with an angular topknot at one side of the head are illustrated by Bai (ed.), Tianjin bowuguan cang yu (Jade Wares Collected by the Tianjin Museum), Beijing, 2012, p. 98, no. 81; and by Rawson, *Chinese Jade from the Neolithic to the Qing*, London, 1995, p. 284, no. 19:4, described as Qin dynasty carvings.
66. A PAIR OF GREEN JADE PIGS

Western Han Dynasty (206 B.C. – A.D. 8)

each very simply carved from a solid block, the legs and feet delineated by deep slash cuts and notches, the pointed ears laid back flat on the sides of the head, the blunt snout with a small pierced tab at the base, the flat rump with a thick pierced tab for the tail, the translucent celadon green stone with creamy white areas and with remains of iron-rust and earth lightly encrusted on the polished surface.

Length 4 1/2 inches (11.5 cm) each

The custom of placing a pair of pigs (a banquet food) in the hands of the deceased is thought to have been done with the auspicious intent that there should be good food ‘in hand’ at all times.

A similarly modelled pair of pigs in the collection of the Harvard University Art Museums is illustrated by Loehr, Ancient Chinese Jades from the Grenville L. Winthrop Collection in the Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge, 1975, p. 387, no. 565, where the author cites a very similar example found in an early Eastern Han tomb at Beizhuang, Dingxian, Hebei assigned to the period A.D. 56-88 on the basis of epigraphic evidence. Illustrated in Kaogu Xuebao, 1964, No. 2, p. 148, fig. 4. Another pair of Han pigs carved in a very similar style from mottled jade is illustrated by Rawson, Chinese Jade from the Neolithic to the Qing, London, 1995, pp. 319-320, no. 24:10. See also the very similar Han pig in the collection of the Tianjin Museum, illustrated by Bai (ed.) in Tianjin bowuguan cang yu (Jade Wares Collected by the Tianjin Museum), Beijing, 2012, p. 112, no. 099. Compare also the jade pigs of this type carved in the same classic style, sometimes referred to as ‘Han Eight Cuts’, illustrated in the catalogue of special exhibition at the Hong Kong Museum of Art, Chinese Jade Animals, Hong Kong, 1996, pp. 68–69, nos. 36–38.

Jade pigs were used in burials throughout the Han and Six Dynasties period. In Chinese Jades from Han to Ch’ing, Asia Society, New York, 1980, p. 45, James Watt illustrates a single jade pig from the collection of Laurence Sickman and cites a pair of jade pigs excavated from a tomb in Xuzhou, Jiangsu province which has been attributed to the end of the third century B.C., illustrated in Kaogu, 1974, No. 2, p. 121 as the earliest example of jade pigs recorded by archaeologists in China.

西漢 玉豚一對 各長 11.5 厘米
67. **A Jade Twin Dragons Scabbard Buckle**

Western Han Dynasty (206 B.C.–A.D. 8)

carved in high relief with two chi dragons, the larger dragon shown striding towards the smaller beaked dragon perched on the rounded end of the clasp, the reverse with an oblong slotted tab and hooked ends, the translucent pale green jade with cloudy areas.

Length 3½ inches (8.8 cm)

A very similar jade scabbard buckle is illustrated by Loehr, *Ancient Chinese Jades from the Grenville L. Winthrop Collection in the Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge*, 1975, p. 395, no. 572; and another similar jade scabbard buckle in the collection of the Palace Museum, Beijing, is illustrated in *Gugong bowuyuan cong wenwu zhenpin quanjji* (The Complete Collection of Treasures of the Palace Museum), JadeWare, Hong Kong, 1996, p. 220, no. 183, from the Qing Court collection.

68. **A Small Quadrangular Jade Seal**

Han Dynasty (206 B.C.–A.D. 220)

with plain tapered sides and concave shoulder, the narrow platform top with a pierced tab, the pale olive green jade with cloudy mottling, incised with a single character xu (嬬) on the base.

Height ¾ inch (2.2 cm)

A similar jade seal unearthed in 1991 from a Western Han tomb at Fannancun, near Xi’an, is illustrated in *Shaanxi chutu Han dai yuqi* (Han Dynasty Jades Unearthed in Shaanxi), Beijing, 2009, p. 66, no. 10.

69. **A Small Square Jade Seal**

Han Dynasty (206 B.C.–A.D. 220)

with canted plain sides, the platform with square tab pierced with twin channels, the base incised with two characters man he (蠻禾) in fancy seal script, the jade of opaque pale tan color.

Width ½ inches (1.3 cm)

A similar jade seal with two characters on the base unearthed in 2006 from the tomb of Han Emperor Liu Qi (d. 153 B.C.) illustrated by Liu in *Shaanxi chutu Han dai yuqi* (Han Dynasty Jades Unearthed in Shaanxi), Beijing, 2009, p. 62, no. 4.

70. **A Thinly Carved Jade Tubular Fitting**

Han Dynasty (206 B.C.–A.D. 220)

with flat base, well-hollowed with a wide oval channel, the domed upper section divided in half by a straight groove down the middle, pierced at the center edge with two pairs of tiny apertures through the base and low on the sides.

Length 3½ inches (8.9 cm)

71. **An Olive Green Jade Bi Disc**  
Western Han Dynasty (206 B.C.–A.D. 8)

with central aperture approximately the same width as the ring, carved on both sides with oblique rows of incised comma-spirals on shallow bosses in an all over grid pattern defined by shallow lines ground into the surface, bordered by single incised lines near the flat polished edges of the inner and outer rims, the pale olive green jade with degraded surface showing wide areas of cloudy tan color; Chinese wood fitted box with brocade lining and inset burl wood panel bearing the inscription *Zhou Gu bi* (周穀璧) *Chen shi zhen cang* (陳氏珍藏).

Diameter 5½ inches (14 cm)

Provenance From the Collection of Eugene Meyer (1875–1959) and Agnes E. Meyer (1887–1970)

A similar *Bi* disc carved with comma-spirals discovered at Mancheng, Hebei province, in the tomb of Liu Sheng (r. 154–113 B.C.), the king of the Zhongshan State, is illustrated in the excavation report, *Mancheng Han mu fajue baogao* (Excavation of the Han Tombs at Man-ch'eng), Beijing, 1980, Vol. II, pl. 211, no. 1 and in a line drawing op. cit., Vol. I, p. 296. Another *Bi* disc of similar form and design discovered in 1977 at Ganquan, Hanjiang, Yangzhou city, Jiangsu province in a late Western Han tomb, now in the collection of the Yangzhou Museum, is illustrated by Xu (ed.) in *Han Guangling guo yuqi* (Jade Wares of Guangling in Han Dynasty), Beijing, 2003, p. 59, no. 30. Compare also the similar jade *Bi* disc from a late Warring States period Qin State burial, excavated in 1977 at Gaozhuang, Fengxiang, Shaanxi province, illustrated by Liu (ed.) in *Shaanxi chutu Dong Zhou yuqi* (Eastern Zhou Dynasty Jades Unearthed in Shaanxi), Beijing, 2006, p. 206, no. GW24.
A JADE COLLARED DISC (YUAN)

Western Han Dynasty (206 B.C.–A.D. 8)

the smoothly polished flat disc with a shallow collar rising on both sides around the rim of the central circular aperture, the outer edge simply rounded, the jade altered in burial to a creamy beige color with a random swirling pattern of paler markings, giving the impression of two liquids imperfectly mixed, and with scattered pseudomorphs of a silk wrapping showing as a faint pattern of very fine interwoven lines.

Diameter 5 ⅜ inches (13.8 cm)

Provenance From the Collection of Hon. Leonard B. Sand, New York, NY

Published and Exhibited J. J. Lally & Co., Ancient China: Jades, Bronzes & Ceramics, New York, 1999, no. 21

The simple form of this type of ancient jade, found in burials ranging over a wide area and over a long time span within the archaic period, sometimes leads to imprecise dating, but the very distinctive stone, polish and patination seen in the present example are uniquely characteristic of the jade collared discs found at Dian Culture sites in Yunnan. Compare, for example, the two jade collared discs excavated in 1956 at Shizhaishan, Jinping, Yunnan province, exhibited in the travelling exhibition organized by the Rietberg Museum Zurich and illustrated by Lutz, Dian Ein Versunkenes Königreich in China, Zurich, 1986, p. 105, no. 54.

Compare three collared discs of this distinctive color excavated in Yunnan, illustrated by Gu (ed.), Zhongguo chutu yuqi quanjji (Complete Collection of Jades Unearthed in China), Vol. 12, Yunnan, Guizhou, Xizang, Beijing, 2005, pp. 42 and 62, described as Western Han dynasty.

The collared disc is an ancient Chinese jade form with origins which may be traced back to the Neolithic period, and many well-finished examples of widely varying form and size have been discovered in Shang dynasty tombs. Several collared discs of different sizes and shapes found in the tomb of Fu Hao (d. circa 1200 B.C.), are illustrated in Yinxu Fu Hao mu (Tomb of Lady Hao at Yinxu in Anyang), Beijing, 1988, pls. 87–94, including one which is very similar to the present example in form and size in pl. 89, no. 1.
73. **An Incised Green Jade Plaque**

Han Dynasty (206 B.C. – A.D. 220)

of pentagonal outline, polished flat on one side and incised in fine linear style with a mysterious scene of two figures gazing up and gesturing toward a dish balanced on a thin pole, with a large cat-like beast striding at one side, amidst billowing striated clouds, the reverse left rough, indicating the plaque was probably used as an inlay, the dark green jade showing some cloudy degradation at the edges.

Length 4 ¼ inches (10.6 cm)

The magical scene of enigmatic figures and a fantastic beast on this jade plaque corresponds to the description of the high mountain realm of the immortals in the *Shanhaijing* (Classic of Mountains and Seas), a compilation of mythical history and geography which had great cosmological and philosophical influence during the Han dynasty.

This style of figure scene is seen on Han dynasty lacquers.

Compare the finely incised immortals and fantastic beasts on the lacquer box excavated at Mawangdui, a royal Western Han burial site in Changsha, Hunan province, illustrated in *Changsha Mawangdui er, san hao Han mu* (Tombs 2 and 3 of the Han Dynasty at Mawangdui, Changsha), Report on Excavation, Volume I, Beijing, 2004, col. pl. 33, pl. 75, with description on p. 140 and line drawings on p. 146.

漢 刻紋玉牌 長 10.6 厘米

74. **An Incised Jade Ruler**

Eastern Han Dynasty/ Three Kingdoms Period, circa A.D. 3rd Century

divided into ten equal segments by incised lines on both long edges of both sides, and with three segments on each edge also divided into eight smaller units, decorated with a pair of seated figures and one larger seated figure amidst undulating cloud scrolls, the same decoration repeated on both sides between crosshatched panels at either end, drilled near one end, the grayish-green jade with cloudy areas, showing remains of cinnabar.

Length 9 ¾ inches (23 cm)

Compare the plain carved bone ruler of similar form excavated in 1982 at Xigong, Luoyang, illustrated in *Ancient Treasures of Luoyang*, Beijing, 1990, p. 74, no. 55, described as Eastern Han dynasty.

Compare also the plain carved bone ruler in the Liaoning Provincial Museum, excavated in 1955 at Sandaohao, Liaoyang city, Liaoning province, illustrated in *Zhongguo gudai du liang heng tuji* (Weights and Measures in China Through the Ages), Beijing, 1984, p. 15, no. 28, described as late Eastern Han / Three Kingdoms period.

東漢 / 三國 刻紋玉尺 長 23 厘米
An Incised Green Jade Dragon Head Plaque Fragment

Han Dynasty (206 B.C. – A.D. 220)

The large head shown in profile, with the outline of the plaque delineating the pointed snout and clenched jaws, the surface highly polished on one side and vigorously incised and scraped to show various details including a large circular eye above a hooked fang emerging from the side of the mouth, a long ribbed horn curving down from behind the ear, and one foreleg ending in clawed foot held close under the chin, the reverse unfinished and plain, indicating the carving was probably used as an inlay, the dark moss green jade with remains of earth and cinnabar.

Length 6⅝ inches (17.2 cm)

A similarly carved jade plaque in the form of a wild boar with incised details on the polished surface, excavated in 2002 from a tomb at Maopo, Chang'an, Shaanxi province, dated to the middle of the Western Han dynasty, is illustrated by Liu, Shaanxi chutu Han dai yuqi (Han Dynasty Jades Unearthed in Shaanxi), Beijing, 2009, p. 229, no. 197.