

Jade

17.34

S.I.1123

Chinese,

~~Ch'ing~~ dynasty.

~~Early Late~~ Shang, ca. ~~15th century B.C.~~ 1523-1028 B.C.

Ceremonial implement:

Chisel-shaped object of the type kuei; long slender form with perforation in the squared handle; edges rounded; broadly beveled at one end; closely mottled cream and light tan; decoration: a band of channeled and incised lines; smooth surface. Box.

16.5 cm
~~16.5~~ in length. (6-1/2")
~~0.39~~ in width. (1-9/16")
03.9 cm

Neg. No.
~~H738B3~~
S3809AE

1. Bought from Lee Van Ching, of Shanghai. For price, see Original Miscellaneous List, p. 251.
 2. Original attribution: Han. See further, S.I.1123, Appendix VIII. (See Paragraph 6.)
 3. Sp. G. is 2.885. Soft material.
 4. (A.G.W., 1945) Ch'ing dynasty.
 5. (E.H.W., 1956) X-ray diffraction analysis.
- Nephrite. Film F134. 2/28/56.
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 pai yü p'ei

漢白玉琬

8. (T. Lawton, 1978) Attribution changed from "Ch'ing" to "Late Shang".

9. (Julia Murray, 1980) Attribution is changed from Late Shang to Early Shang, ca. 15th century B.C. 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. A few, as in this case, display relief and incised lines near the hole, a decorative scheme also found on a chisel excavated from the early Shang site at Erh-li-t'ou, Honan Province.

10. (Julia Murray, 1982) For a general discussion of chisel-shaped jades, see folder sheet 17.31. Chisel 17.34 shows some features not present on others in the Freer collection. In a manner somewhat reminiscent of a ko blade, it has a slightly recessed tang, which provides a distinct handle for the piece. Also, the treatment of the linear design near the hole suggests a metallic inspiration. Nonetheless, the blade is slightly biconvex and the end beveled like a chisel, so it seems appropriate to group 17.34 with the chisels. (The Erh-li-t'ou chisel mentioned in the 1980 label is reproduced in K'ao-ku 1975/5, pl. 9/1.)

Changed from Early Shang to Shang, ca. 1523-1028 B.C.