Asia-China-Shang-Bronze-Gui

Early Western Zhou (late 11th - early 10th century BCE) Gui (Kuei), 26 cm. wide.

The Early Western Zhou vessels were cast in the workshops that had been previously operated under Shang patronage and continued to produce vessels for their Zhou masters in the same shapes but with different design motifs from their Shang antecedents. As a consequence it is possible to distinguish between Late Shang and Early Western Zhou workmanship. This vessel is distinguished by vertical ribs in the mid body and typical Shang Gui dragon handles, but the two friezes bordering the vertical ribs are embellished with medallions in the shape of "roundels" and "hooked cloud" designs instead of the moiré curvilinear spirals. Therefore, we might suggest that this may be a Western Zhou product. A six-line dedicatory inscription is cast on the bottom of the container that commemorates the owner, presumably a Western Zhou leader.

A comparable example is in the Avery Brundage Collection ( d'Argencé 1977:78-79, no. XXXI).

References:

d'Argencé, René-Yvon Lefebvre. 1977. Bronze vessels of ancient China in the Avery Brundage Collection. San Francisco: Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.













