~Asia-China-Mirror-Han dynasty-TLV-Immortal and Spirits of the Four Directions



W. Han dynasty (206 BCE-8CE), 2nd century BC-TLV-Immortal and Spirits of the Four Directions

The National Palace Museum (diameter 14.1 cm, rim ht. 0.4cm) example is nearly identical except for the rim border (Yuhai Guo 1996: pl. 38 and pp. 106-107. The eight figures circling the zone outside of the central square are curvilinear designs and although unidentifiable as naturalistic forms may signify constellations, which would be in keeping with the cosmological basis of the TLV design. The Carter Collection example (Weight, 511gm, dia., 14.2 cm., rim height 0.6 cm., knob height 1.2 cm.) is nearly identical except that it is gilt.

This design type has a time horizon of two centuries from the mid-W. Han (Zhōngguó qīngtóngqì 2005: pls 60-61) to the late-E. Han dynasties (Guangzhou 1981, I:, fig 210 no. 4, fig. 276 no. 5).

References:

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