A000-Asia-China-Liangzhu-Trapezoidal Pei-Jade-mid Lianzhu Period-2800 BCE



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Figs. 1-4. China-Liangzhu-Trapezoidal Pei-Jade-mid Lianzhu Period-2800 BCE

**Case no.: 5**

**Accession Number:**

**Formal Label:** China-Liangzhu-Trapezoidal Pei-Jade-mid Lianzhu Period-2800 BCE

**Display Description:** Jade Pei objects were used in headdresses with other jade pieces and with decorative feathers. The visage on the recto of this piece is suggestive of visages carved in larger cong and so might have a connection with ancestor worship. Pei figurines have been found carefully laid on the bodies of the deceased. The brown staining is due to the penetration of the bodily fluids of the deceased.

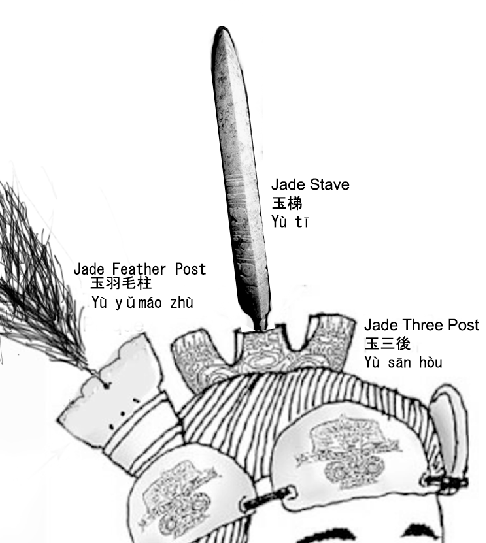


Fig. 5. Reconstruction of how the Jade Three-Post, the trapezoidal Jade Feather Post and the Jade Stave were attached to headdress structures. After Gu 2005.8:69; revised detail after Childs-Johnson 2009, fig.17, p. 352. The feathers indicate the Heavenly movement of Earth around the Pole Star.



Comparable trapezoidal Jade Feather Posts have been identified. One has three perforations and a centrally located top perforation and is in the Shanghai Museum:

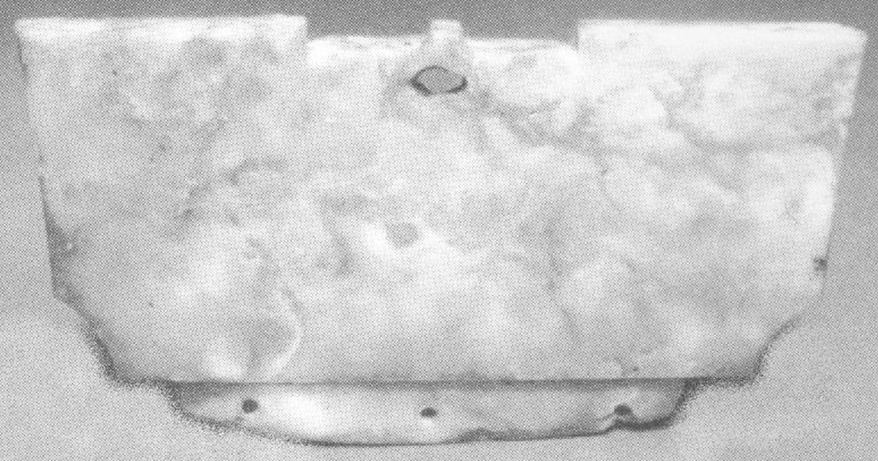


Fig. 6. Trapezoidal comb ornament, southeast China, late Neolithic Period, Liangzhu culture, ca. 3200-2300 BCE, probably of the Songze culture in the Shanghai region, Shanghai Museum. Dimensions not given. After Childs-Johnson 1988, no. 68, p. 21b. Another trapezoidal comb ornament with two perforations and a top central hole is in the collection of Richard J Salisbury, New Jersey:

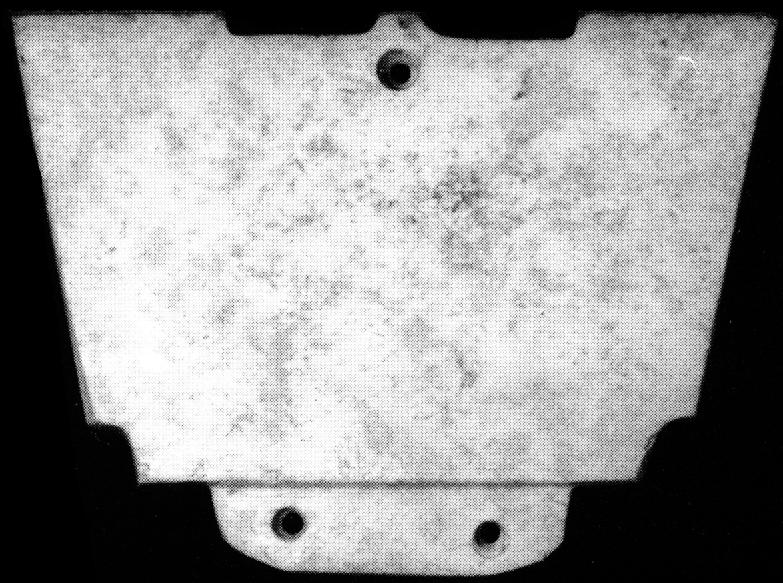


Fig. 7. Trapezoidal comb ornament, southeast China, late Neolithic Period, Liangzhu culture, ca. 3200-2300 BCE, , Richard J Salisbury Collection, New Jersey. 4.7 cm. high, 6.5 cm. wide, 0.5 cm. thick. After Childs-Johnson 1988, no. 68a, p. 21. Other trapezoidal comb ornaments were documented through archaeological excavations at Yaoshan and Fanshan:

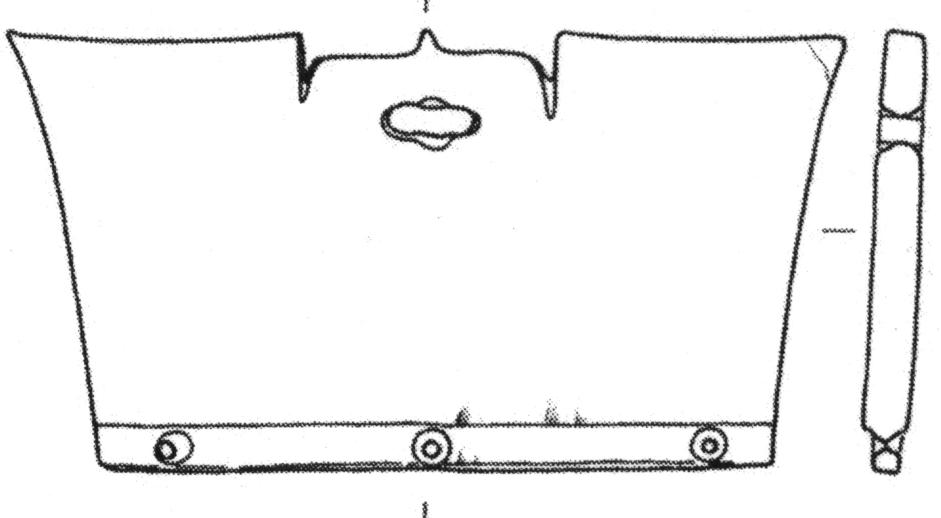


Fig. 8. Trapezoidal comb ornament from Yaoshan, E 3-3, M12: 2850, after Childs-Johnson 2009, Fig. 15, p. 344.

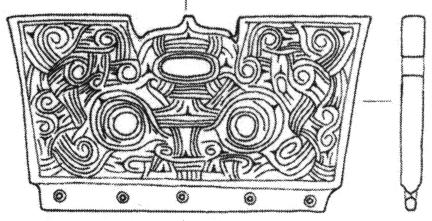


Fig. 9. Trapezoidal comb ornament, decorated with the so-called “Taotie” apotropaic mask face, from Yaoshan, E 3-4, M11: 86, after Childs-Johnson 2009, Fig. 15, p. 344.

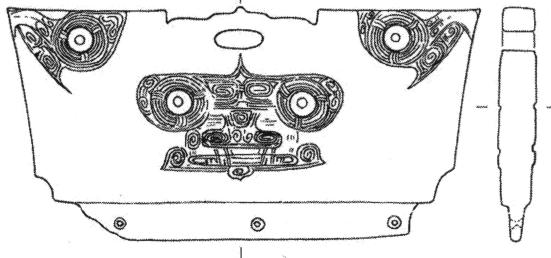


Fig. 10. Trapezoidal comb ornament, decorated with apotropaic mask face and two eye motifs, from Fanshan, E 3-5, M22:11, after Childs-Johnson 2009, Fig. 15, p. 344.

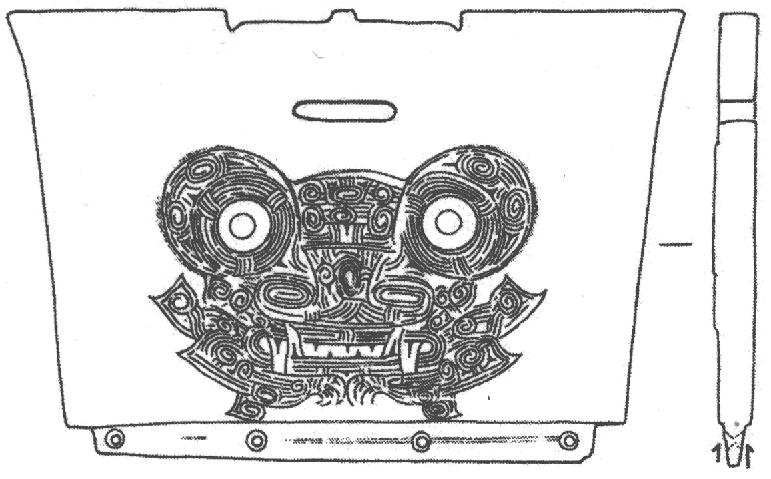


Fig. 11. Trapezoidal comb ornament, decorated with apotropaic mask face, from Fanshan, E 3-2, M17:8, after Childs-Johnson 2009, Fig. 15, p. 344.

**LC Classification:** NK5750.2.A1

**Date or Time Horizon:** Liangzhu culture, lower Yangzi River Valley, early Liangzhu Period, ca. 3200 BCE **Geographical Area:** Liangzhu culture, lower Yangzi River Valley

**Map:**



Fig. 12. Locastion of Liangzhu site proper.Source: Google Earth



Fig. 13. Detail of Liangzhu site complex surrounding Taihu. After Zhou Ying 2007.



**Fig. 14.** Detail of Liangzhu site proper. After Zhou Ying 2007.

**GPS coordinates:**

Northeast corner: N 30°24'48", E 120°00'17"

Northwest corner: N 30°24'41", E 119°58'58"

Southeast corner: N 30°23'20", E 120 00'19"

Southwest corner: N 30°22'55", E 119°58'28"

**Cultural Affiliation:** Liangzhu culture, lower Yangzi River Valley, 3300-2250 BCE

**Medium:** Jade

**Cultural Affiliation:** Liangzhu

**Medium:** jade

**Dimensions:** H 2.375, W 3.25 in., D 3.25 in., hole Dia 2.5 in.,

**Weight:** 425 gm.

**Condition: original**

**Provenance:**

**Discussion:**

Liangzhu (3400–2250 BCE) in Yuhang County, Zhejiang, became a highly stratified society in the latter Liangzhu Period ca 2800-2250 BCE when élites began to control a sphere of influence that extended north to Shanxi and south to Guangdong. Jade and other expensive wares (such as silk, lacquerware, and ivory) characterized the social symbolism of Liangzhu élites which they used in ritual performances and dances as well as in grave goods. In this period the previous rôle of the shaman was curtailed in its psychological component and elevated in its rational component as astronomer.

DNA from Liangzhu culture sites around Taihu Lake the Yangtze River exhibit high frequencies of Haplogroup O1 which was absent in other archaeological sites that were sampled inland of the Liangzhu complex. Haplogroup O1 is common to modern Austronesians and Taiwanese Aborigines/Taiwanese Austronesians (TAN) (O1) probably came from those Liangzhu Austronesians (LAN) who had been displaced from the mouth of the Yangtze River delta by an economic crash of the LAN ca 4500 BCE induced by a meteor that struck at the present location of Taihu Lake, a meteoric crater. Recent studies show that special micro-fractures in quartzite were formed during the unloading process after the compression at the peak of an impact event (Wang, Wan, Xu 2002). LAN culture sites that existed around Taihu Lake and the mouth of the Yangtze River succumbed by ca 4200 BP LAN to a series extreme floods from diversions of the Yangtze River that interrupted the cultural layers with intrusions of mud and sand. It took 800 years, from 4200 BCE until 3400 BCE, for the Liangzhu culture on the mainland to recover. At the end of this time-horizon, Taiwanese migrants began to sail east to the Buka Strait in the Solomon Islands which became a staging area for the populating of Polynesia ca 2500 BCE.

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