Case 5-Asia-China-Hongshan-Jade-Hook Cloud-Gōu yú-勾云-Pendant, Dadianzi, Aohan Banner, Liaoning, ca. 2000-1500 BCE



Figs. 1-2. China-Hongshan-Jade-Hook Cloud-Gōu yú-勾云-Pendant, Dadianzi, Aohan Banner, Liaoning, ca. 2000-1500 BCE

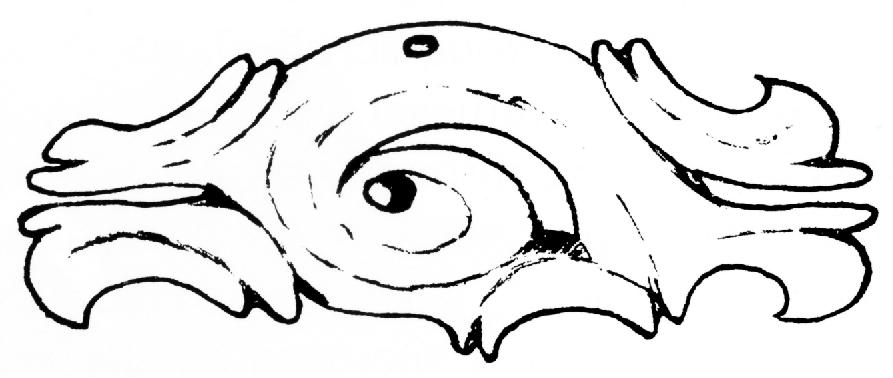


Fig. 3 China-Hongshan-Jade-Hook Cloud-Gōu yú-勾云-Pendant, Dadianzi, Aohan Banner, Liaoning, ca. 2000-1500 BCE. Drawing by Jenny So of a hooked cloud scroll pendant from Dadianzi, Aohan Banner, Liaoning, ca. 2000-1500 BCE, width 10 cm. Now in the Inner Mongolia Provincial Museum, Hohhot, after So 1993, Fig. 9b.

**Case no.: 5**

**Accession Number:**

**Formal Label:** China-Hongshan-Jade-Hook Cloud-Gōu yú-勾云-Pendant, Dadianzi, Aohan Banner, Liaoning, ca. 2000-1500 BCE

**Display Description:** This hooked cloud scroll pendant from Dadianzi, Aohan Banner, Liaoning is associated with Hongshan jades which present distinctive features and which are not associated with any other Neolithic culture. Its function as a pendant is made evident by the suspension hole pierced on the top, long side. These Gōu yú were placed in the chest area of the deceased, such as in tombs nos. 2 and 14 of the Niuheliang site. Its Chinese name, Gōu yú or ‘hook-cloud’ takes its inspiration from the abstract curvilinear shape of these pendants, which surround a central curved, spiraling, C-shape from which protrude short, hooked protuberances.

The cultural significance of Gōu yú-勾云 pendants may have been associated with shamanism since clouds represent the heavens to which the shaman aspires and the hook or the curling central section has a similar profile as the ‘dragon-pig’ pendants. This would associate the heavens with the ontology of the domesticated wild boar.

The fine grooves incised on the surface and smoothly polished, are the suggested attributes of smooth cumulus clouds also serve to consolidate all the constituent elements of the pendant.

**LC Classification:**

**Date or Time Horizon:**

**Geographical Area:** Dadianzi, Aohan Banner, Liaoning

**Map:**

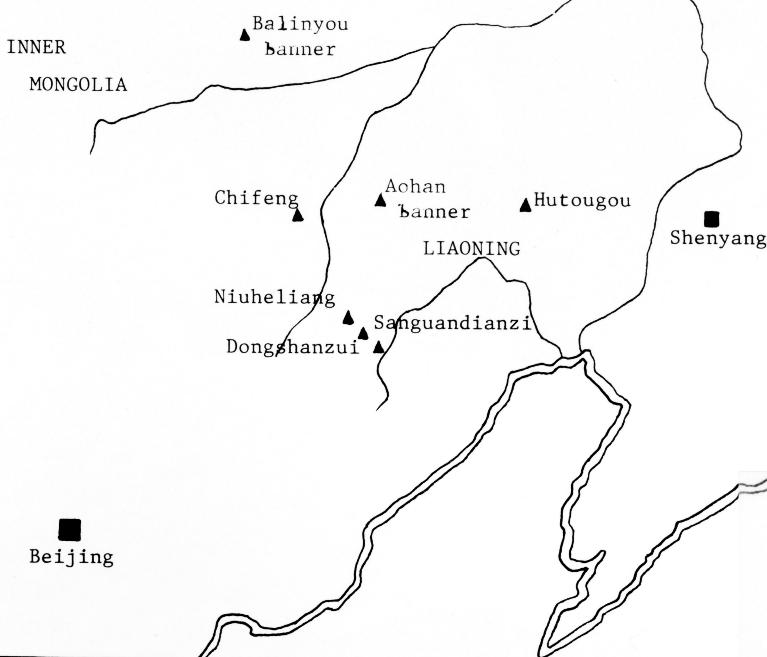


Fig. Map showing placement of Hongshan related sites after So 1993, Fig. 2.

**GPS coordinates:** 42° North , 120° East (est.)

**Cultural Affiliation:** Hongshan

**Medium:** jade

**Dimensions:** width, 13.3 cm., height 5.0 cm., thickness 0.2cm.

**Weight:** weight 25gm.

**Condition: original.**

**Provenance:** From an old private Swiss collection.

**Discussion:**

Similar ornaments excavated from tombs of the Niuheliang site. See Liaoning 1997 and Yang, 2000: entry no. 18.

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