



TWO-DAY AUCTION - Fine Chinese Art / 中國藝術集珍 / Buddhism & Hinduism (CA1021)

Fri, 15th Oct 2021

Viewing:

You may view objects in this auction in our gallery from October 4 to October 14, 2021. We are open Monday to Friday from 10 AM to 6 PM CET, as well as by appointment.

Lot 63

Starting price: €5000

Estimate: €10000

A LARGE BLACKISH-GREEN JADE CEREMONIAL BLADE, ZHANG, EX-SACKLER COLLECTION 大型墨青色玉牙璋, 前Sackler收藏

Northwest China, late Neolithic period, c. 2000 BC. The thinly carved blade of gently waisted outline tapering from the two slightly projecting flanges (lan) towards the extremely thin curved end. The tang drilled with a hole.

Provenance: A.W. Bahr Collection, Weybridge, 1963. Arthur M. Sackler, acquired from the above. Christie's London, 3 November 2009, lot 159 (part lot, together with another blackish-green zhang blade). Austrian private collection, acquired from the above. Two old inventory numbers, 'J1147' and 'J809'. Arthur Mitchell Sackler (1913-1987) was one of America's foremost art collectors, who amassed the largest Chinese art collection in the world. His name lives on in many art-related projects: the Sackler Wing that houses the Temple of Dendur at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery at Princeton University, and the Arthur M. Sackler Museum at Harvard University. At the Smithsonian Institute, the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery is a museum for Asian and Near Eastern Art. In China, the Arthur M. Sackler Museum of Art and Archaeology teaches museology to students in Beijing.

Published: 4000 Years of Chinese Archaic Jades, Prof. Filippo Salviati, 2017, page 121, no. 139.

Condition: Excellent condition with minor wear. Two minute hairlines to the edge of the blade, where the stone is at its thinnest, few old losses to edges.

Weight: 73.9 g

Dimensions: Length 30 cm, Width 7 cm, Thickness 1.5-1.6 mm

The stone is mostly translucent, though in many areas only when light is shone through from a short distance, turning red in those areas and greenish-yellow at the thinnest parts. The mineral is of a blackish-green color with a brownish tint and a creamy streak, which is entirely opaque, to both sides near the tang. The dark color is probably due to a very high presence of iron within the raw jade, which was specially selected to craft this specific type of blade and not used for other categories of jade artifacts.

Ceremonial blades such as the present lot are rare. For an ancient drawing of such a blade, see Wu Dacheng, Gu Yu Tu Kao (Investigations into Ancient Jades with Illustrations), 1889, Shanghai, fig. 1.

Literature comparison: Compare a closely related ceremonial blade in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, accession number 30.120.124. Compare also a slightly larger blade, also attributed to the Neolithic period, in the National Museum of China, Beijing, illustrated in National Museum of China, ed., Zhongguo Guojia Bowuguan guancang wenwu yanjiu congshu, Yuqijuan [Studies on the collections of the National Museum of China. Jade], Shanghai, 2007, pl. 25. For a full discussion of this type of blade, see Rawson, Chinese Jade, pp. 188-

191. Related examples excavated at Shenmu Shimaog are illustrated in Yang Boda, *Jade Zhang in the Collection of the Palace Museum*, Beijing, pp. 53-60.

Auction result comparison: Compare a closely related zhang blade, also dated to the late Neolithic and formerly in the collection of Arthur M. Sackler, but of slightly larger size (38 cm long), at Sotheby's Hong Kong in Monochrome on 11 July 2020, lot 121, **sold for HKD 4,735,000**, and another, dated Neolithic period to Shang dynasty, of similar length and closely related dark green tone, at Sotheby's London in Important Chinese Art, 6 November 2019, lot 210, **sold for GBP 106,250**.

大型墨青色玉牙璋，前Sackler收藏

中國西北地區，新石器時代後期，公元前約2000年。器身上端有刃，刃內凹如月牙形，下端呈長方形，底部兩側有突出的鉏牙，並鑽孔。牙璋是一種禮器。

來源：英格蘭韋布里奇A.W. Bahr 收藏，1963。Arthur M. Sackler購於上述收藏，倫敦佳士得2009年11月3日 lot 159 (與另一件墨青玉牙璋一起)。奧地利私人收藏，購於上述拍賣。兩個收藏編號 'J1147' 與 'J809'，紐約Arthur M. Sackler收藏。Arthur Mitchell Sackler (1913-1987) 曾是美國最重要的藝術收藏家之一，擁有世界上最大的中國藝術收藏。他的名字曾出現在眾多與藝術相關的項目中：美國大都會藝術博物館Dendur神廟所在的Sackler展館、普林斯頓大學的Arthur Mitchell Sackler展館和哈佛大學的Arthur Mitchell Sackler博物館。在史密森學會，Arthur Mitchell Sackler展館是亞洲和近東藝術博物館。在中國北京，學生們在Arthur Mitchell Sackler藝術與考古博物館學習博物館學。出版：《中國古玉4000年》，Prof. Filippo Salviati, 2017, 第121頁，圖139。

品相：狀況極好，有輕微磨損。刀刃邊緣有兩處細裂紋，那裡是玉璋最薄的地方，邊緣幾乎沒有缺損。

重量：73.9 克

尺寸：長30 厘米，寬 7 厘米，厚度 1.5-1.6 毫米

玉石大部分呈半透明狀，但大部分區域只有當光線從短距離照射時，這些區域會變成紅色，最薄的部分會變成黃綠色。玉料呈墨綠色，褐色調，在靠近柄部的兩側有完全不透明的奶油狀條紋。顏色較深的原因可能是原玉中鐵含量非常高，這是專門用來製作這種特殊類型的刀片。

像現在這樣的禮器牙璋是十分罕見的。此類牙璋的古圖可見清代吳大澂《古玉圖考》，1889年，上海，圖1。

文獻比較：一件相近禮器牙璋見紐約大都會博物館，編號 30.120.124.；一件同樣如此大型的新石器時代牙璋見北京中國國家博物館《中古國家博物館館藏文物研究叢書 玉器卷》，上海，2007年，圖25。詳細討論可參考 Rawson, *Chinese Jade*, pp. 188-191.；類似考古例子可見神木縣石峁遺址，見楊伯達所著北京故宮博物院收藏中的玉璋，北京，第53-60頁。

拍賣結果比較：一件相近的新石器時代末期玉璋，同樣來自Arthur M. Sackler收藏，但尺寸更大(長38 厘米)，見香港蘇富比Monochrome 2020年7月11日 lot 121, 售價HKD 4,735,000; 另一件新石器時代至商代的玉璋，相近長度及墨綠色，見倫敦蘇富比Important Chinese Art 2019年11月6日 lot 210, 售價GBP 106,250。