



# Jade; a study in Chinese archaeology and religion

*Berthold Laufer*

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## **Jade; a study in Chinese archaeology and religion** Berthold Laufer

This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1912 Excerpt: ...by him ta pi "large disks," which he identifies with those presented by the vassal princes; of the one, he docs not state the color; the other is of green jade. He further has a ts'ang pi of green (ts'ing) jade used in the worship of Heaven, and several other large pi, one of yellow and one of white jade, both mixed with russet spots.1 These, I suppose, served for interment, being placed under the back of the corpse. In our collection, there are three large ancient disks pi of nearly the same size which may be considered as images of the deity Heaven. They are extraordinary in dimensions and workmanship. While the one in Plate XXI was, in all likelihood, actually connected with the worship of Heaven because of its greenish color, the two others may have served only burial purposes. The disk shown in Plate XXI has a diameter of 22 cm, the perfora 1 There would be no sense in reproducing these figures, as they consist of two concentric circles only. tion being 5.8 cm in diameter, and is 4-9 mm thick. The wall of the perforation is slanting, as may be recognized in the illustration. The coloring of this jade is very curious; a rhomboid central section is colored dark-green while four segments stand out in a light-brown with greenish tinge. A finger-shaped depression will be observed in the lower part, and there is another on the opposite face; presumably, the object was held during the ceremony by placing the fingers in these grooves. The stone of which the disk in Plate XXII, Fig. 1, is carved resembles in appearance the marble of Ta-lifu (in Yiin-nan Province) but is indeed jade. The two faces are different in coloring. The one not shown has a white background veined with parallel black streaks in the portion on the right-hand side, a black segment...

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