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On the Jadewares Unearthed from the Xiasi Chu Tomb at Xichuan and Other Relevant Issues

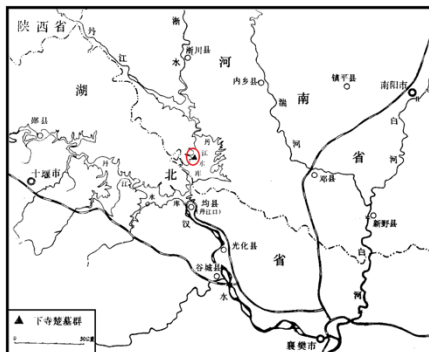


Fig.1: Location of the Chu Cemetery in Xiasi Town, Xichuan City

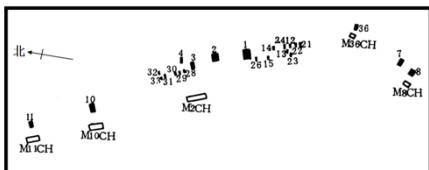


Fig.2: The layout of the Chu Cemetery in Xiasi Town, Xichuan City



Fig.3: Jade Bi, M2:146, M2:267

The cemetery in Xiasi Town, Xichuan City is a typical cemetery of Chu Aristocrats in the Spring and Autumn Period. It is located on the crest of Longshan Hill where Danshui river and Xishui river meet in the lower reaches of Dan River. From 1978 to 1979, 9 large and medium-sized tombs, 15 small tombs and 5 chariot pits were excavated and cleaned up here successively. The tombs are roughly at a 90-degree angle to the north-south Mountain. Nine large and medium-sized tombs are juxtaposed in the north and south, while the chariot pits are basically located in the west of the main tomb.

The excavators divided the tombs into group A, B and C according to their distributions and ages. Dating back to the middle and late Spring and Autumn period, the tombs of Group A are located at the southern end of the mountain ridge, including M8, M7, M36, and two burial chariot pits in M8 and M36. Group B is located in the middle of the Mountain Ridge. It is the largest tomb group with the highest-standardized main tomb in the cemetery. It consists of two large tombs, M1, M2, and two medium-sized tombs (M3& M4), 15 small graves scattered in the northern and southern parts of the group and one burial chariot pit in M2, dating from the early Spring and Autumn period, Group C is located in the northern part of the mountain ridge, comprising two medium-sized tombs M10, M11 and two burial chariot pits which were built during about the late Spring and Autumn period. The whole Chu Cemetery in Xiasi Town roughly lasted for 140 years. (1991:1-3 & 314-319)

In Xiasi Chu Tomb, 9 large or medium-sized tombs were found with a number of bronzes and jade wares as funerary objects, among which funerary jadewares were found in tombs M1, M2, M3, M7, M8, M10, M11, and M36 as well as in two small tombs M24 and M26. Totally, 245 jade wares were unearthed from those 10 tombs. Among them, jade teeth and jadeite pendant make up the largest majority, followed by the jade ring, jade tiger, flat strip decoration, jade Huang, cambered jade, jade bead, jade pi-disk, chalcedony, square column jade and so forth. In terms of the shape, inscription, and sculpture, this paper is going to select a few jadewares with outstanding characteristics as the representative of those unearthed from the Xiasi Chu



Fig. 4: Jade *Yuan* Pendant, M1:5



Fig.5: Jade *Jue*, M7:12



Fig.6: Jade Tube-shaped *Jue*, M3:36



Fig.7: Semi-annular Jade Sample, M1: 99

Tomb.¹

JADE BI (Fig.3) The Jade Bi marked M2: 146 and M2: 267 have the same shape and decoration, with 6.85 cm in diameter, 2.05 cm in diameter of orifice and 0.3 cm in height. They were made of bluish white jade, but become yellow white when weathered from burial. Both are flat and take up the shape close to circular. Three projections pop out of the edge, two of which on the opposite side are shaped like a bold “W” and the upper of which like a bold “U”. The front and back of both pis are embossed with two circles of dragons that partly stretched out of its flanks.

JADE YUAN PENDANT (Fig.4) Sample M1:5, Yuyuan, originally named as Jade *Bi* Disk, a Jade *Bi* Disk (II), with its tan color and fine and exquisite texture, is decorated with veins with distorted dragon on the front and delicate lines of Taosuo around the inner and outer edges whereas the reverse side is pure white. Yuyuan is 13.5 cm in diameter, 6.9 cm wide 0.38 cm thick.

JADE JUE (Fig.5) Sample M7: 12 is a light greenish white jadeware that is smooth and dedicate, dense and transparent. The front ornamentation is divided into inner and outer parts, with the outer part mainly decorated with seven double-hooked intaglio of dragon pattern while the inner part veining with distorted dragon. The reverse side is pure white with circular scuff-marks. Jade *Jue* is 5.2 cm in in diameter, 1.3 cm in aperture, and 0.25 cm thick.

JADE TUBE-SHAPED JUE (Fig.6) Sample M3: 36, Tubular Jade *Cong* Tube, originally named as Yucong, is a light greenish white jadeware that is dense and transparent, whose Qinse is brown (Qinse refers to jade articles in the environment for a long time contact with water, soil and other materials, produced by water or mineral weathering erosion jade body). It is tubular, within a round hole and a vertical gap on one side. The rinse of the jade is divided into two rows, decorated with six reversed double-hooked intaglio of dragon pattern on which engraved hooked grain on the top and horizontal grain on the bottom in front of dragon’s eyes. Half of dragon horns upwardly go above the dragon’s eyes. Tubular yujue is 2.1 cm in diameter, 0.9 cm in aperture, 3 cm high and the gap is 0.32 cm, whose ends both are carved with double-ringed intaglio.

JADE SEMI-RING-SHAPED OBJECT (Fig.7) Sample M1: 99, Jade

¹ For all the information about the jade types, shapes, inscriptions, and sculpture from the Xiasi Chu Tomb, please see to the excavation report, The Chu Tomb of the Spring-Autumn Period Excavated at Xiasi Town, Xichuan; Nanyang Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology, ed. *Fine Ancient Jadewares from Nanyang*, Beijing: Cultural Publishing House, 2005, pp. 249-254; and *Yang Jianfang, Jade Culture of Yangtze River*, Wuhan: Hubei Education Press, 2006, pp. 268-274. Annotations will not appear hereinafter.



Fig.8: Jade Human Figurine, M8: 67



Fig.9: Jade Beast Face Ornament, M1:12



Fig.10: Jade Plate, M7:21



Fig.11: Jade Dragon, M1:77

Huang Ornament, originally named as Jade Pendant (IV), is light green in color and smooth and delicate, dense and transparent in texture. The jade is semi-annular with a rectangular section and protuberant animal heads carved at the reverse side and both sides, particularly the animal head on the back is pierced. Carved on the surface of the vessel are the veins of a cobra. Semi-annular Jade is 5.3 cm high, 7 cm wide and 0.1 cm thick.

As for the category of the vessels, except for Jade Pendant recorded in the report of excavation, in accordance with Yang Jianfang, Semi-annular Jade is a jade ring with embossing, "Among four equidistant protruding animal heads due to incompleteness, there are three of them remained."

JADE HUMAN FIGURINE (Fig.8) Sample M8:67, it is a 3.6-centimeter-tall white jade in the shape of circular tube, with delicate moist texture, compact and slightly transparent. One side of it is honed into an embossed portrait with flat head-top, round head, short neck, slender eyes, wide nasal ridge and ala, closed mouth and big long convex ears. Besides, its chest is clearly carved out and the sleeves are placed between the chest and the abdomen. Wearing a Bixi (a large cloth around the front of the garment to cover the knee used in ancient China), it stands crosswise with short legs, bare feet and toes.

JADE BEAST FACE ORNAMENT (Fig.9) Sample M1: 12, originally named as Jade Plate (I), is a light greenish white jade whose delicate and moist surface is etched in milky white and in the shape of inverted trapezoid. It is engraved with a beast-face vein in the bottom of the front, and symmetrical dragon headlines on the sides; it presents a staring and protruding tongue. The symmetrical dental ridges are the tongue, nose, eyes and horns of the dragon's head, which are finely filled with dense pottery lines and fine scale grain by using intaglio and relief techniques. Its backside is smooth and plain with a circular aperture on both the upper and lower ends of the central line.

The left upper part of the jade is carved out only in outline without details, which indicates that it might be an unfinished work. According to this observation, scholars believe that "the jade tablets cannot be an artifact obtained through exchange with the distant side", and presume that "the work that the local craftsmen started to carry out hadn't been accomplished when their funeral was held."²

JADE PLATE (Fig.10) Sample M7: 21, type II is a light greenish white jade

² Thote Alain, translated by Liu Yutang and Jia Jidong. Typical Confrontation and Communication of Heterogeneous Cultures—the Origin and Other Issues of the Burial Vessels Unearthed from the Xiasi Chu Tomb of Xichuan [J], *Jiangnan Archaeology*, 1996 (2).



Fig.12: Jade Tiger, M1:4



Fig.13: Jade Tiger, M1:4



Fig.14: Jade Fish Tail Dragon-shaped Pendant, M2:154

which is mild and slightly transparent, tending to be ivory after alternation. The schistose jade has pattern on both sides. Its front is engraved with a side face of man, who has fringe in the front and a long hair on the shoulders. He has thick eyebrows, cloud shaped ears and garlic nose. His big mouth is protruding and tightly closed. Its back is incised with a deformed dragon head pattern in double “J” shape. There are three inclined drilling holes in both ends. It is 2.3 cm in length, 1.4-2.2 cm in width and 0.2 cm thickness.

JADE DRAGON (Fig.11) Sample M1: 77, originally named as Jade *Huang* Ornament (type III). It is a light greenish white jade with brown alternation spots which is mild and slightly transparent. It is curved in a “C” shape with twisted rope pattern. The thick end is smoothly cut as the dragon head, with a round shallow groove as the dragon mouth. There is a hole penetrating as the eye, which may also thread to hang a jade pendant. The tip is slender with a shallow hole. Its surface is decorated with rough twisted rope pattern. It is 5.35 cm in length and 0.75 cm in diameter.

This is the earliest Jade Dragon pendant ever known to be decorated with a twisted rope pattern.

JADE TIGER (Fig.12) Sample M1: 4 (Type I) is a light greenish white jadeware with brown alternation spots that are mild and slightly transparent. Some parts tend to be grayish white after alternation. The schistose jade is a reverted “U” shape. It bows the head with the back arching, tail drooping but tip curling up. It is prone with legs curving and claws folding. The ears are forward. There is a small hole in the mouth and the tail respectively, which can thread to hang a jade pendant. The back of it is plain in pure white and the front is decorated with pattern. The head and forelimbs are decorated with distorted dragon pattern, the body vertical parallel curves pattern, the buttock and middle part of tail simplified dragon pattern, and both edges twisted rope pattern. It is 14.7 cm in length, 7.35 cm in width and 0.5 cm in thickness.

JADE HUANG ORNAMENT WITH TWO-HEADED DRAGON (Fig.13) Original named Jade Tiger M2: 156, (Type II), may also be called Jade Conjoined Twin Tigers, Jade *Huang*-shaped Ornament, Jade Two-headed Beast Ornament. It is a flat piece of white jade, 2.8 cm long, 1.35 cm wide and 0.25 cm thick, but appears grayish white after being eroded by other materials. It has a groove in the middle, dividing the body into two parts, whose ends are both in the shape of dragon head. The left end is slightly open and a curved hole is drilled through it, while the other end is close and without any drilled hole. The upper and lower edges of the body are carved into teeth shapes, and



Fig.15: Jade Tusk-shaped Ornament, M1:115



Fig.16: Jade Tusk-shaped Ornament, M2:269



Fig.17: The Jade Tube, M2:159



Fig.18: Chrysoprase Tubes, M3:38

the front is engraved with the pattern of intaglio Siamese dragon head.

It is “the earliest two-section jade Huang ever known to be carved with dragon heads,” and “this kind of jade Huang with its special shape was popular from the late Spring and Autumn period to the early Warring States period, and probably originated in the Chu Area (that now covers across Hunan and Hubei Provinces).”

JADE FISH TAIL DRAGON-SHAPED PANDANT (Fig.14) Dragon Jade Pendant with Fishtail (M2: 154), scheduled to be called Jade Fish, may also be called Jade Bird-beast-combination-shaped Ornament. It is a flat piece of glossy yellowish jade that is 3.1 cm in length and 1.6 cm in height. The whole body of this jadeware is engraved in the pattern of intaglio cloudy. There is a carved hole in the head of the dragon, with a tip protruding from the top of the back. And the back of the dragon has a half ring protrusion, while the end of the dragon’s tail is bent downward in the shape of a fish tail.

It combines both fish and dragon, thus taking up the “weird shape” of “the jade decoration in the mixed shape of fish and animals,” “the shape of mixing fish and animals together is not rare for the jade wares carved in the Chu Area during the Warring States period, but has never been found among the jade wares unearthed from other regions.”

JADE TUSK-SHAPED ORNAMENT (Fig.15) Jade Teeth (M1: 115), scheduled to be called Jade Xi, is a flat piece of half-transparent gray jade in the shape of ox horn, which is 5.7 cm long, 1.4 cm wide, and 0.42 cm thick. It appears brown plaque after partially being eroded by other materials. One end is thicker and carved into the shape of an animal head, with a hole besides the animal’s mouth. Both sides of the body are carved into the shape of silkworm sections, some of which are engraved with the pattern of Taosuo. The fish tail is in the shape of obtuse angle.

JADE TUSK-SHAPED ORNAMENT (Fig.16) Specimen M2: 269, scheduled to be named Jade Xi Pendant (Type II), is a half-transparent light greenish white jade with brown alternation spots. The horn-like body is flat and thin. Both sides of it are decorated with a line of three incised dragon head patterns towards the front. The middle pattern turns upside down toward in the opposite direction with the other two heads. The top and bottom of the thick part are carved with lophodont teeth and the auger perforation is in the outer edge of the arc back. It is 6.3 cm in length, while the thicker end is 1.1 cm in width and 0.3 cm in thickness.

JADE TUBE (Fig.17) Specimen M2: 159 (Type I) is a light greenish white

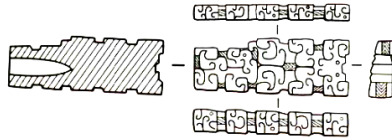


Fig.19: Jade Flat Strip-shaped Ornament, M3: 51



Fig.20: Jade Slender Waist-shaped Ornament, M3:50

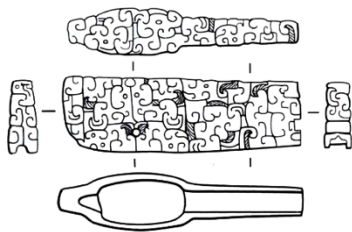


Fig.21: Jade Flat Strip-shaped Ornament, M3: 49

jadeware and appears buff after erosion. The tubular body is long and slender. The transverse auger hole is in the middle of the tube. The surface of it is carved into 9 silkworm-shaped sections, decorated with 5 bas-relief dragon grains alternated with 4 twisted rope patterns. It is 8.1 cm in length, 0.7 cm in diam and 0.4 cm in bore diam.

CHRYSOPRASE TUBES (Fig.18) Specimen M3: 38 is half-transparent greyish white chalcedony. The olive-like shape is divided into silkworm sections. It may also be accepted as a waist drum with small ends and raised middle. The twisted rope pattern is alternated with plain face. It has a longitudinal perforation. It is 2.6 cm in length, 0.85 cm in max. diam and 0.2 cm in bore diam.

JADE LIU (Fig.19) Specimen M3: 51, scheduled to be named Jade Flat Strip-shaped Ornament (Type III), is in white color, with greyish-white and brown alternation spots. The body is flat, taking the shape of an irregular rectangle. One end is wide and thick while the other narrow and thin. The narrow and thin end is drilled with a hole that is 0.2-0.4 cm in bore diameter and 1.7 cm in deepness. Both sides have got the same pattern of decoration—a dragon looking down in the sky, with its head part decorated with distorted cloud designs and tail part with simplified dragon pattern. The two flanks are decorated with lophodont teeth which have distorted dragon design with little round eyes. The alveolar is decorated with twisted rope patterns. It is 4.5 cm in length, 1.2-1.7 cm in width and 0.4-0.7 cm in thickness.

JADE SLENDER WAIST-SHAPED ORNAMENT (Fig.20) Specimen M3: 50, originally named as Flat Strip-jade Ornament (Type VII), is a flat sepia rectangular with circular beads. Its back is flat and smooth. There is a waist-shaped flat groove on the front and the middle of the two sides, with two bas-relief dragons decorated on both sides. And a simplified twisted rope pattern appearing like the Chinese character “一” is inserted in the middle interspace of the bas-relief dragon (that is, fill the rectangle with short parallel slashes). The jade is 3.4 cm in length, 1.4 cm in width and 0.65 cm in thickness.

JADE SPOON-SHAPED ORNAMENT (Fig.21) Specimen M3: 49, originally named Jade Flat Strip-shaped Ornament (Type VI), is an irregular brown jade with the longitudinal section nearly in a spoon shape. One half of it is a flat rectangular parallelepiped with grooves, while the other half is bulging outward on both sides and drilled with a rectangular eyelet, each side of which has a corresponding small round hole. The entire jade ware is decorated with bas-relief dragons. There is also a simplified twisted rope

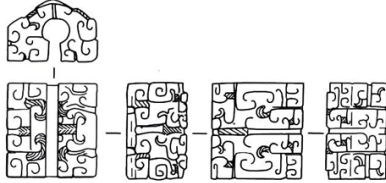


Fig.22: Jade Flat Strip-shaped Ornament, M1: 85

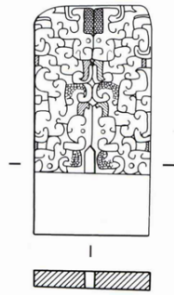


Fig.23: Jade Rectangular Perforated Ornament, M3:48



Fig.24: Jade Arc-shaped Ornament, M26:1

pattern appearing like the Chinese character “一” in the gap between the dragons. The jade is 6 cm in length, 1.5-1.8 cm in width and 1-1.5 cm in thickness.

JADE ARCH BRIDGE-SHAPED ORNAMENT (Fig.22) Specimen M1: 85, originally named Jade Rectangular Perforated Ornament, or Jade Tube-shaped *Jue* Ornament, is a slightly transparent irregular Sapphire, which has turned into brown by alteration (with grayish white freckles). Its cross section is similar to the arch, and there is a continuous groove on the front center line, with a circular hole penetrating the upper and lower sides in the middle of the two ends, which is connected with the straight groove. The whole body of the jade is decorated with bas-relief dragons. There is also a simplified twisted rope pattern like “一” in the gap between the dragons. It is 2.6 cm in length, 2.6 cm in width, 1.55 cm in thickness and 0.75 cm in aperture.

JADE RECTANGULAR PERFORATED ORNAMENT (Fig.23) Sample M3: 48, originally named as Jade Rectangular Perforated Ornament (Type V), is in milky white color with brown alteration spots. Flat and thin, it takes the shape of a rectangle with two curved corners. It has the same decoration on both sides, with about 1/4 unadorned and the rest of it decorated with both beast-face and dragon bas-relief patterns. The beast-face decoration is carved with scale patterns in details, and the spaces between the dragon bas-reliefs are adorned with simplified rope patterns in l-shape. In the middle of the lower part is drilled a Gui-shaped hole. The sample is 5.8 cm long, 2.9 cm wide and 0.4 cm. thick.

JADE ARC-SHAPED ORNAMENT (Fig.24) Sample M26: 1 is a piece of white jade with brown alteration spots. It shapes like a semi-circular with a thick middle part and two thin, sharp ends. It is 5.3 cm in diameter.

JADE COMB (Fig.25) Sample M1: 14 is in yellow color with slightly red alteration spots. It is flat and thin and takes the shape of letter “T”. Its back slightly curves upwards, with raised ridges at two ends. Both sides of the upper part are engraved with square or rectangular dragon patterns in two parallel lines. There are eighteen equally spaced sharp teeth at the lower part, six of which are broken with rectangular cross sections. The sample is 7.7 cm high, 5.6 cm wide and 0.5 cm thick.

JADE HAIRPIN (Fig.26) Sample M1: 13 is made of a piece of somewhat transparent green jade with smooth texture, shaping like a long cylinder. The cap of the hairpin takes the shape of a tapering bolt, with its top concave in the



Fig.25: Jade Comb, M1:14

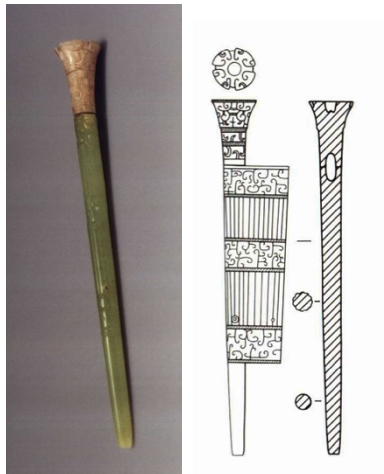


Fig.26: Jade Hairpin, M1:14



Fig.27: Jade Hilt of an Iron Dagger, M10:33

middle. The upper part of the cap is carved with cloud patterns, and the lower part divided into two parts by two rings of rope patterns, with hook-shaped cloud patterns in two parallel lines carved between. The body of the hairpin is carved with three rings of hook-shaped cloud patterns separated by two rings of engraved vertical lines. The lower part of the body is smoothly ground and polished without decoration, and in the middle of the body is drilled a hole. The sample is 16 cm long, with the body and the cap respectively 0.9 cm and 1.9 cm in diameter.

JADE HILT OF AN IRON GAGGER (Fig.27) Sample M10: 33 is slightly transparent light greenish white jade with smooth and exquisite texture, shaping like a long, narrow letter “I”. Its surface is decorated with beast-face and cirrus cloud bas-reliefs, and its edges are carved into protruding strips, except for the smooth front with a hole for the insertion of the dagger. The hilt is 10 cm long and 0.5 cm thick, with the ends and the middle respectively 3.8 cm and 2.1 cm wide.

Still, concerning the jadewares unearthed from the Xiasi Chu Tomb, the following issues need to be clarified:

1. The origin and formation of jades of Xiasi and Chu style

Mr. Yang Jianfang suggests that the early Chu jadewares should have been modeled on M7, M8, and M36 unearthed from the Xiasi Chu Tomb, which must have been carved during the middle Spring and Autumn period. During this period, the jadewares carved in Chu Area were scarce and the same in essentials as those produced in the Central Plains, showing the deep influence of the jade culture of the Central Plains upon that of the Chu Kingdom. The apparent differences, however, lies in two aspects: 1) the style—the slim arch-shaped jade wares that are rarely found in the Central Plains are widespread in the Chu Area, and 2) the pattern—the layout of dragon patterns unearthed from the Chu Area is different from that of the Zhou Dynasty’s in the Central Plains. The Jade Jue (M7: 12) from the Xiasi Chu Tomb, for example, has seven asymmetric dragons in the front part, while the dragons on the Jade Jue from the Central Plains are symmetrical and even in number. All these show an inkling of the self-consciousness of the Chu people and display the characteristics of the jade culture of Chu Kingdom in its incipient stage.

As for the preliminary formation of the Chu-style jade wares, Mr. Yang holds that in the anaphase of the middle Spring and Autumn period, the Chu-style jade wares were mainly modeled on M1, M2, and M3 unearthed from the Xiasi Chu Tomb, whose innovative achievements are mainly embodied in the

form, pattern, and sculpture. In terms of the shape, the Chu-style jade wares appear like silkworm knots or hawthorns, or have an irregular outline like the Jade Chuguo (M2: 146 & M2: 267) and the gilded jade (M3: 51), which are quite different from the rigid common style of those from the Central Plains. In terms of the ornamentation, firstly, decorating with crepe line as the edging becomes a new technique; secondly, such exquisitely crafted designs are rather splendid and gorgeous, like fine grain decorations, the combination of silkworm patterns and crepe patterns, designs on the dragon's foot; thirdly, the arrangement of the dragon pattern is inverted, for example, in the middle of the Jade Teeth (M2: 269), the pattern turns upside down, inconsistent with the two ends; fourthly, the dragon's eyebrow is only half or in the shape of a transverse S, or there is a straight line with double hooks between the eyebrow and the palate; fifthly, the simplified crepe line in a transverse "I" shape gains popularity, and the embossed dragon pattern appears. As for the carving skills, the employment of the embossed pattern, which is tightly squeezed, reduces labors and materials. (Yang Jianfang, 2006: 265-267 & 275-276)

In the passage *The Characteristics of Jade Articles in Chu Style* written by Yang Jianfang, the above style of jade articles unearthed in Xiasi Tomb has been carefully analyzed. Thus, this paper will not add any unnecessary comments. (Yang Jianfang, 2006: 102-165)

The novelty of appearance and the decorations and the exquisite making process of the jade wares unearthed from the Xiasi Chu Tomb, which are summed up by Pi Daojian as the Xiasi Style, all reflect the advanced techniques of the Chu-style jadewares and embody the attachment of the upper class in the Chu Kingdom to the cultural elements of these objects. (Pi Daojian, 1995: 73-83) Jiang Fujian holds that the new sophisticated dragon head pattern on the jade palate, with the skills of "combining intaglio and relief" and "hairline intaglio" makes up a new technique in the Spring and Autumn period. (Yang Jianfang, 2011)

According to the above introduction to the jadewares unearthed from the Xiasi Chu Tomb and the research findings of the scholars, these jadewares on the one hand completely conform to the style of its era—"typical jadewares during the Spring and Autumn period that had evolved from flat to embossing and from simple to complex." (Yang Boda, 1986: 9) On the other hand, these jadewares have their own unique and distinctive characteristics that were of the Chu Kingdom, which then came down in one continuous line with the developing course of the Chu culture: "seeking from others to learn widely

from others' strong points, and seeking from oneself to originate a style of one's own." (Zhang Zhengming, 1987: 60)

2. Classification of Xiasi jade wares

According to the excavation report, Xiasi jade wares are divided into two categories: ritual wares and decorations. Among them, there are 24 pieces of ritual wares in 5 kinds of *Bi*, *Jue*, *Cong*, *Huang* and *Yuan*, 220 pieces of decorations in 22 kinds and 1 piece of an iron dagger with a jade handle (see the attached table at the end of the document for details). Mr. Yang Jianfang divides the jade wares from M1, M2 and M3 into ritual wares, decorations, objects of unknown use and tools. Among them, there are only 7 pieces of jade *Bi*, 151 pieces of decorations in 15 kinds, and 15 pieces of objects of unknown use in 7 kinds. (Yang Jianfang, 2006: 267-268) Need to point out is that, some "objects of unknown use" may be accessories of a decoration. Although these two kinds of classification method are different, but from the statistics of both, decorations occupy great majority in kind and amount, far more than ritual wares.

In addition, according to The Summary of Fine Ancient Jades from Nanyang, there are four types of jade in the late Spring and Autumn period, namely, production and life, etiquette, decoration, and Xiangsheng (2005: 10). Ms. Ren Yiling divides the jades unearthed from the Xiasi Chu Tomb in the Spring and Autumn period of Nanyang into ceremonial jade, ornament jade, practical life jade and funeral jade (Ren Yiling, 2009: 433-438). Mr. Qi Yanguang divides the jades unearthed from the Xiasi Chu Tomb of Xichuan into four categories: ritual jade, *Pei* jade, living utensils, and others (Qi Yanguang, 2018). Although scholars study the jade unearthed from the Xiasi Chu Tomb in the Spring and Autumn period in Nanyang area, Xiasi jade, as one of the most important components, these classification schemes are undoubtedly applicable.

According to the research of Mr. Yang Lixin, the jade unearthed from Chu tomb in the Eastern Zhou Dynasty can be divided into four categories according to the purpose: ritual, burial, decoration and practical decoration. (Yang Lixin, 1991: 58-61) Whether there is burial jade in Xiasi jade remains controversial; as for the other three categories, we can find the corresponding one.

The classification of those jades possesses following two characteristics. Firstly, it is the fall of the ritual jades. It was documented in *Dazongbo of Ritual of Zhou* that six kinds of jade artifacts referred to *bi* (wide disc-shaped jades

with a proportional small central hole), *cong* (tube-shaped jades consisting of a circular tube shape with protruding square corners), *gui* (axe-like jades used as memo tablets), *zhang* (jades with blade-like body with a curved end and teeth at the hilt bracketing a small hole), *hu* (jades which take tiger shape) and *huang* (half-ring jades usually used as pendants). While the excavation report of Xia Temple revealed that only *bi*, *cong*, *hu* and *huang* were unearthed. However, Sample M3:36, which was originally categorized as *cong*, is identified to be *que* which takes the shape of tube (a jade tube with a slit ring in profile). What more, whether Sample M7:11 with a shape of hollow cylinder shape is *cong* still remains an unsolved problem because no realistic picture of it was attached. Also, *hu* (M1:4) and *huang* (M1:99) are both perforated for wearing, demonstrating that they should be regarded as ornamental jades. Archaeologist Xia Nai holds that six kinds of jade artifacts recorded in *Ritual of Zhu* make up an ideal set of ritual implements created by scholars who studied rituals from Warring States Period to early Han Dynasty. Xia also deems that the most common ritual jades in ancient times were *bi*, *cong*, *gui* and *zhang* (Xia Nai, 1983: 125-145). Taking all these problems into consideration, Bi might be the only type of ritual jades among all excavated from the Xiasi Chu Tomb. Secondly, it is the rise of the ornamental jadewares. According to the attached form, the ornamental jadewares excavated from the Xiasi Chu Tomb are of complete variety, large quantity and rich shapes, in which aspects superior to ritual jades. The wax of the ornamental jadewares and the wane of the ritual ones reflects a transformation of the aristocrats' idea about the function of jades—from ritual-related to aesthetic.

3. The Xiasi jadewares and the Chu-style jadewares

Although most of the jadewares excavated from the Xiasi cemetery that is typical of the noble Chu-style tomb in the Spring and Autumn Period are of the Chu-style, there are still exceptions. For example, the jade comb (M1: 14) is of the Qin-style instead of the Chu-style as a research finding of Yang Jianfang (Yang Jianfang, 2006: 270-271). Because the double hook intaglio square or rectangular dragon pattern is typically Qin-style (Yang Jianfang, 2013). Therefore, it is doubtful to classify all the Xiasi jadewares into the Chu-style or those from the Chu Kingdom. The fundamental reason is that it mixes up the symbiosis and coexistence of unearthed relics. In other words, we usually categorize a jade ware just in terms of the site where it was unearthed but neglect the possibility that different types of jadewares may coexist in one tomb. Therefore, we should conduct comprehensive analysis based on the

	Ornament	Type II M1: 100, 101 Type II M1: 103 Type III M1: 77 Type IV M1: 99									16	9
	Jade Yuan Pendant	[2] M1: 9, M1:15										2
Weapon	Jade Hilt of an Iron Dagger					M10: 33						1
	合计	65	53	64	8	27	2	3	10	12	1	245

Jadewares and Specimen Unearthed from the Chu Cemetery in Xiasi Town, Xichuan City

Postscript: 1. The form is collected according to the reference from Hebei Province Institute of Cultural Relics, the excavation and fieldwork team of Jiangku district in Hunan Province, and *Spring and Autumn Period Chu Tomb of Xiasi, Xichuan in Henan province* written by the museum of Xichuan county. For the sake of the convenience in collating, the classification and name of the jade remain as the old; 2. the number in “[]” indicates the number of assorted unearthed jades from the Chu tomb of Xiasi, the number of jades unlabeled with “[]” is “1” by default.

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