

CHRISTIE'S

HONG KONG

Magnificent Jadeite Jewellery &

Jadeite Jewellery Without Reserve

Tuesday 28 April 1998



MAGNIFICENT JADEITE JEWELLERY & JADEITE JEWELLERY WITHOUT RESERVE

Auction

Tuesday, 28 April 1998

**Magnificent Jadeite Jewellery at 1:30 p.m. (lots 1801-1944)
and 4:00 p.m. (lots 1946-2021)**

Jadeite Jewellery Without Reserve at 6:00 p.m. (lots 2101-2258)

At JW Marriott Hotel, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Hong Kong

In sending written bids or making enquiries,

please refer to the sale code as **ANEMONE-3001, WILLOW-3003**

Selected Viewing

TAICHUNG, Room C, The Landis

Saturday-Sunday 4-5 April 10:00am-6:00pm

KAOHSIUNG, JP Art Center

Tuesday-Wednesday 7-8 April 10:00am-6:00pm

TAIPEI, Shin Kong Museum

Friday-Sunday 10-12 April 10:00am-6:00pm

TOKYO, Christie's Japan

Wednesday-Thursday 15-16 April 11:00am-7:00pm

SINGAPORE, Sun Chuan Hotel & Club, Hyatt Regency

Saturday-Sunday 18-19 April 10:00am-6:00pm

Viewing

HONG KONG, 3/E, JW Marriott Hotel

Friday 24 April 10:30am-6:30pm

Saturday 25 April 10:30am-6:30pm

Sunday 26 April 10:30am-6:30pm

Monday 27 April 10:30am-6:30pm

Tuesday 28 April 10:30am-3:00pm (lots 2101-2258)

Enquiries at JW Marriott Hotel

General enquiry / Sales results	Tel: (852) 2918 4901	Fax: (852) 2918 9512
Bids	Tel: (852) 2918 4916	Fax: (852) 2973 0136
Specialists	Tel: (852) 2918 4921	Fax: (852) 2973 0226

For room bookings at Christie's special rate, please contact
Ms Lilian Choy at JW Marriott (852) 2810 8366

Christie's Hong Kong Limited
2203-5 Alexandra House, 16-20 Chater Road, Central, Hong Kong

Tel: (852) 2521 5396

Fax: (852) 2845 2646

Catalogue Price HK\$350 US\$45 £28



CHRISTIE'S

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Front cover illustration lot 1890
Back cover illustration lot 1875

This sale is subject to the Conditions of Sale printed at the back of this catalogue, and to reserves

For assistance and further information about this sale please contact the following:

Specialists

Edmond Chin (852) 2978 9926
Rose Wong (852) 2978 9928
Vickie Sek (852) 2978 9922

Departmental Manager

Tammy Chuang (852) 2978 9925

Administrator

Joyce Lee (852) 2978 9948
Warren Poon (852) 2978 9927

Cataloguer

Mary Lee (852) 2978 9920
Rose Wong (852) 2978 9928

Department Fax

(852) 2973 0226

Client Advisory Services

For advice on any aspect of buying at this sale or assistance in foreign languages, please contact:

Beryl Chan Tel: (852) 2978 9917
Fax: (852) 2973 0136

Telephone Bids

If you cannot attend the auction you are welcome to bid on the telephone on lots with a minimum estimate of HK\$50,000. As the number of telephone lines is limited, please make arrangements for this service at least 24 hours before the sale, especially if you wish to bid in a language other than English.

Beryl Chan Tel: (852) 2978 9917
Fax: (852) 2973 0136

Written Bids

Buyers who cannot attend a sale can bid using the form in this catalogue.

For further information:

Imelda Lee Tel: (852) 2978 9910
Fax: (852) 2973 0136

Payment

Details of charges are given at the back of this catalogue. For further information about methods and terms of payment for buyers please contact:
Michael Fok Tel: (852) 2978 9961
Fax: (852) 2845 2646

Collection of Purchases

All lots will be available for collection after payment at the end of each sale. Buyers are reminded to make collection arrangement as soon as possible to facilitate storing and handling procedures. Although personal and company cheques are accepted, buyers are advised that purchases will not be released until such cheques have cleared. Payment by cash or banker's draft will enable immediate release of purchases. Credit Cards and Travellers cheques are not accepted.

Collection at Christie's Hong Kong office commences on Wednesday, 29 April from 10:30am - 1:00pm and 2:00pm - 5:00pm during weekdays and 10:30am - 12:00pm noon on Saturdays.

Shipping

Estimates for the shipping of any property and advice on the most secure and economic means of dispatch can be obtained from our shipping department:
Francis Tsang Tel: (852) 2978 9914
Fax: (852) 2845 2646

Catalogue Subscriptions

This catalogue is available by subscription. Please see the form in this catalogue or contact:
Priscilla Yuen Tel: (852) 2521 5396

Internet

<http://www.christies.com>
for more information about our services. Areas covered:
Highlighted sales
Upcoming sales by location
Upcoming sales by category
Catalogue Subscriptions
Christie's Great Estates
Buying and Selling at Christie's
Estate and Appraisals services
Worldwide selling offices
Christie's other services

Christie's will be pleased to provide a condition report for any lot on request. Nevertheless, intending buyers are reminded that each lot is sold "as is", and their attention is drawn to the Conditions of Business at the back of this catalogue.

See also Important Information for Buyers

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR BUYERS

Christie's welcomes you to our viewing galleries and salerooms. Our specialists and client service staff will be pleased to help you with any aspect of buying or selling at auction. We can provide assistance in a wide range of languages.

USING THIS CATALOGUE

Estimate Prices

Each entry in this catalogue includes an estimated price range which reflects the opinion of our specialists. These are based upon prices recently paid at auction for comparable property and take in account condition, rarity, quality and history of previous ownership (provenance).

Estimates are prepared well in advance of the sale and are subject to revision; they do not include the buyer's premium.

Where "Estimate on Request" appears, please contact the specialist department for further information.

Reserves

The reserve is the minimum price the seller is willing to accept and below which the lot will not be sold. This amount is confidential but will not exceed the low pre-sale estimate.

Buyer's Premium

Buyers are advised that the actual purchase price will be the sum of the final bid price plus the buyer's premium, calculated as 15% of the first.

HKS\$400,000 and 10% of the excess of the final bid price above that amount. These charges are explained in detail under 'Conditions of Business' at the back of this catalogue.

BEFORE THE AUCTION

You can attend pre-sale viewings for all our auctions at no charge. All property to be auctioned is usually on view for several days prior to the sale. You are encouraged to examine lots thoroughly and to request condition reports (see below). Christie's specialists and client service staff are available to give advice at all viewings or by appointment.

Opening Hours

The public viewing at the JW Marriott in Hong Kong will be open from Friday, 24th April at 10:30 am through to Monday, 27th April until 6:30 pm.

Condition Reports

If you want additional information on a particular lot, or cannot come to the viewing, Christie's will be pleased to provide a condition report. Please contact the specialist department in charge of the sale.

We remind prospective buyers that descriptions are not warranties but opinion only.

Registration

If you are planning to bid at the auction you will need to register at our Registration and Information Desk in the saleroom.

All intending bidders should bring with them some means of identification and should aim to arrive at least 30 minutes before the sale to allow time to complete registration.

You can register before the sale by sending or faxing us the registration form included in this catalogue.

You will be provided with a numbered paddle which may be used to indicate your bids to the auctioneer during the sale.

If you are the successful buyer of a lot then you should ensure that the auctioneer can see your paddle and that it is your paddle number that is called out.

All lots sold will be invoiced to the name and address provided at registration when the paddle was issued. Invoices will not be transferred to other names and addresses unless special arrangements have been agreed prior to the auction.

New Bidders

If you are a new buyer or have not made a purchase recently, we recommend that you complete the registration form at the front of this catalogue and send or fax it to Christie's well ahead of the sale, to allow time for bank references to be taken up.

Before you bid, we strongly advise you to read our Conditions of Business which appear at the back of this catalogue. The acceptance of your bid will be subject to these conditions.

THE AUCTION

All auctions are open to the public whether intending purchasers or not.

Bidding

Property is auctioned in numerical lot order as it appears in the catalogue. The lot being offered is shown at the front of the saleroom or is illustrated on screen. The auctioneer will accept bids from those present in the room or absentee bidders participating by telephone or via written bid.

Auctions usually proceed at about 60-80 lots per hour, though it may vary depending on the category of items being sold.

Bidding Increments

Bidding generally opens below the low estimate and advances in the following increments:

HKS\$1000-2000	in 100%
HKS\$2000-3000	in 20%
HKS\$3000-10000	in 50%
HKS\$10000-20000	in 100%
HKS\$20000-30000	in 200%
HKS\$30000-50000	in 500%
HKS\$100000 +	Auctioneers Discretion

However, the auctioneer may change the increments during the course of the auction at his or her discretion.

Currency Conversion

Bidding is carried out in Hong Kong Dollars, but Christie's also usually provides a currency conversion board in the saleroom for the convenience of bidders. However, bids shown in foreign currencies are only approximate and do not represent exact exchange rates. Payment will be required in Hong Kong Dollars.

Written Bids

If you cannot attend the auction in person, Christie's can bid for you. There is no charge for this service, known as commission bidding. You simply pay the final bid price plus the premium in the usual way as explained on the written bids form included at the back of this catalogue.

Telephone Bids

If you cannot attend the auction, you are welcome to bid on the telephone on lots with a minimum estimate of HKS\$80,000. We also recommend that you leave a covering bid which we can execute on your behalf just in case we are unable to reach you by telephone.

As the number of telephone lines are limited please make arrangements for this service at least 2 hours before the sale, especially if you wish to bid in a language other than English. Bank references may be requested and should be supplied in good time to be taken up before the auction.

Bids Department: Tel: (852) 2978 9910
Fax: (852) 2973 0136

Successful Bids

The fall of the auctioneer's hammer indicates the final bid. The auctioneer will call out and record the name or "paddle" number of the buyer. If your written bid is successful, you will be notified immediately after the sale by post. Bidding may be re-opened at the auctioneer's discretion.

Unsold Lots

If a lot fails to reach its reserve, it will be 'bought-in' by the auctioneer and either resold at a later date or returned to the seller.

It is possible to make offers after the sales. Please contact the sale administrator who will be present in the saleroom.

AFTER THE AUCTION

Payment and Collection of Goods

Payment must be made within seven days of the sale. Payment should preferably be made by telegraphic transfer directly to Christie's account at:

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd
China Building Office
29 Queen's Road, Central
Hong Kong
Account No. 062-305438-001

Please include your name and invoice number with your instructions to the bank.

Although personal and company cheques are accepted, buyers are advised that purchases will not be released until such cheques have cleared.

Payment by cash or banker's draft will enable immediate release of purchases. Credit Cards and Travellers' Cheques are not accepted.

Please note that transfer of lots is not recognised. The successful bidder during the auction is solely responsible for payment to Christie's.

Storage

Christie's can assist with any arrangements for storage and shipping that purchasers may require. All purchases will initially be held for collection at the saleroom at no charge, after which they will be warehoused. If purchases are not collected within seven days after the sales, we shall arrange storage at the buyer's expense.

Auction results by post

Lists of prices realised at Christie's auctions are sent automatically to catalogue subscribers shortly after each sale. These price lists are available to others at the catalogue counter.

SERVICES AT CHRISTIE'S

Christie's network of offices will assist clients wishing to participate in any of our auctions around the world. Our staff can advise on any aspect of buying and selling at auction, help with obtaining catalogues and other publications, give free auction valuations and provide a wide range of related professional services including:

Client Advisory Services

Advice and assistance can be provided on buying and selling at Christie's worldwide.

Packing and Shipping

Christie's can arrange the packing and shipping of your purchases overseas.

Christie's Fine Art Security Storage (CFASS)

Christie's can arrange for environmentally controlled security storage facilities in London to accommodate individual works of art or entire collections.

Insurance Valuations

Written valuations for probate, insurance and other purposes can be carried out at our offices or at your home.

Taxation Advice

This service is available to assist clients and their advisers in resolving taxation issues relating to works of art, antiques and collectibles.

Financial Services

Christie's is able to offer clients a range of financial services, including advances secured against works of art.

Christie's Education

Christie's runs educational courses in New York, London, Glasgow, Melbourne, Paris and Los Angeles covering all aspects of the fine and decorative arts.

For further information and catalogue subscriptions, please contact our Client Advisory Services on (852) 2978 9910 or by fax (852) 2973 0136.

Christie's Auction Search Service: LotFinder

Looking for something specific? LotFinder, our unique auction search will match your requirements with our forthcoming sales worldwide and give you early notification of any items of interest. To receive a brochure or to register for this service, please contact Client Advisory Services on (852) 2978 9917.

佳士得之服務

佳士得的辦事處網絡遍及全球，可協助閣下參與佳士得在世界各地舉行之拍賣會的競投。本公司除提供一切有關拍賣的意見外，並代客訂購拍賣目錄及本公司其他刊物。此外，本公司亦提供拍賣之專業服務及免費安排拍賣估值。佳士得之其他服務，包括：

客戶服務部

佳士得可為客戶提供有關於本公司世界各地舉行之拍賣會投標及出售拍賣品之幫助及建議。

包裝及托運

佳士得可代客安排將拍賣品包裝及托運往外國。

藝術品倉庫

佳士得在倫敦設有保安嚴密及環境調節之倉庫，可代客戶儲存事件藝術品以至整批珍藏。

保險估值

佳士得可提供書面估值服務以供客戶用作遺囑之認證，保險安排或其他用途。估值可在客戶之住所或佳士得辦事處進行。

稅務顧問

佳士得可為客戶提供有關處理藝術品、古董及其他收藏品稅項問題之建議。

財務服務

佳士得可為客戶提供多項財務服務，包括以藝術品作抵押之貸款。

佳士得藝術課程

佳士得在紐約、倫敦、格拉斯哥、墨爾本、巴黎及洛杉磯均有舉辦有關美術及裝飾藝術的課程。

查詢詳情及訂閱拍賣目錄，請聯絡佳士得香港有限公司客戶服務部：
電話：(852) 2978 9910
傳真：(852) 2973 0136

佳士得拍賣品查索服務

佳士得可以為客戶提供獨特的拍賣品查索服務，在世界各地舉行之佳士得拍賣會中，根據客戶的要求，尋找客戶的愛好。如欲索取小冊子或登記此項服務，請聯絡客戶服務部：(852) 2978 9917。

GLOSSARY

FOR JEWELLERY

Terms used in this catalogue have the meanings ascribed to them below. Please note that all statements in this catalogue as to Authorship are made subject to the provisions of the CONDITIONS OF SALE and LIMITED WARRANTY.

SIGNATURES

1. LACLOCHE
When maker's name appears in the title, in Christie's qualified opinion it is by that maker.
2. Signed by
Has signature which in Christie's qualified opinion is authentic.
3. With maker's mark for
Has a mark denoting a maker which in Christie's qualified opinion is authentic.
4. By
In Christie's qualified opinion the object is by the jeweller although unsigned.
5. Manufactured by
In Christie's qualified opinion the setting has been created by the jeweller using stones originally furnished by the jeweller's client.
6. Mounting by
In Christie's qualified opinion the mounting is by the jeweller, but either the gemstones have been replaced or the piece has been altered in some way after its manufacture.

PERIODS

1. ANTIQUE
Over 100 years old
2. BELLE EPOQUE
1895-1914
3. ART NOUVEAU
1895-1910
4. ART DECO
1915-1935
5. RETRO
1940's

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING COLOURED STONES

Prospective buyers are reminded that many coloured gemstones have historically treated to enhance their appearance. Certain enhancement methods, such as heating, are commonly used to improve both colour or transparency, particularly in rubies and sapphires. Other methods, such as oiling, enhance the clarity of emeralds. These methods have been generally accepted by the international jewellery trade. Although heat enhancement of colour is widely believed to be permanent, it may have some impact on the durability of the gemstone retain their maximum appearance. It is Christie's policy to obtain gemmological reports from internationally recognised gemmological laboratories describing certain gemstones sold by Christie's. The availability of such reports will be disclosed in the catalogue.

Reports from American gemmological laboratories used by Christie's will disclose any heat enhancement or treatment. European gemmological laboratory reports will disclose heat enhancement only if specifically requested but will confirm when no heat enhancement or treatment has been made. Because of variation in approach and technology there may not be consensus among laboratories as to whether any particular gemstone has been treated, the extent of treatment and whether treatment is permanent.

It is not feasible for Christie's to obtain a gemmological report for each gemstone offered by Christie's. Prospective buyers should be aware that all gemstones may have been enhanced by some method. Prospective buyers may request reports for any uncertified item if requests are made at least three weeks before the scheduled date of auction. This service is subject to prepayment by the requesting party of the cost of the service.

Because enhancement affects market value, Christie's estimates will reflect the information disclosed in a report or, if no report is available, the assumption that gemstones may have been enhanced.

Condition reports are usually available for all lots upon request and Christie's specialists will be happy to answer any questions.

有關有色寶石之重要通告

準買家請留意，許多有色寶石會經過特別美化處理。某些美化方法，例如加熱，通常用以增強紅寶石與藍寶石的色澤與晶亮度。其他方法，例如用油處理，則增強藍寶石的明瞭度。此等處理方法已被國際珠寶業普遍接受，加熱以增強色澤屬永久性，但有時會對寶石的耐久程度造成影響。加油處理的寶石則可能數年後需再加油處理，以保持最好的外觀。佳士得的做法是向國際公認的寶石化驗所取得寶石化驗報告，證明佳士得所拍賣的某些寶石的狀況。拍賣目錄會披露是否此等報告。而此等報告則會披露寶石是否經過美化處理。歐洲寶石化驗所之報告只會在特別要求下才公開寶石受加熱美化之資料，但若寶石未有受過此等處理，報告將會作出確實。佳士得不可能就每一寶石而取得寶石化驗報告。因此，準買家應假設所有其他寶石均有可能用了某些美化方法。

準買家亦可在額定的拍賣日期的最少三星期前，請求提供任何未有發証之寶石項目的報告。提出請求人住須要預付此項服務之費用。

由於美化處理會影響市場價值，因此，佳士得的估價亦會反映化驗報告所披露的資料。如無此等報告，則會假設寶石或已經過美化處理。

所有拍賣品均有鑑定意見書以供索閱，而佳士得的專家亦樂於回答任何問題。

TO PROSPECTIVE BUYERS OF CLOCKS & WATCHES

Prospective purchasers are reminded that the items in the catalogue are sold 'as is'. Where possible, significant damage is mentioned in the description of the Lot although this does not include all faults and imperfections or restoration. No warranty is made that any watch is in working order and nothing in the catalogue description of any Lot should be taken as implying such. Neither should the description of any Lot be taken as indicating the absence of restoration or repair or to be a statement as to the condition of the Lot or the state of conservation.

It should be noted that most wristwatches with water-resistant cases have been opened to identify type and quality of movement. It cannot be assumed that the watches are still waterproof and purchasers are advised to have the watches checked by a competent watch-maker before use.

Please note that gold of less than 18ct. does not qualify in all countries as 'gold' and may be refused import. Christie's cannot accept liability if import is refused.

Please note that the Rolex watches in the Christie's sale catalogue are sold as viewed and that Christie's cannot guarantee the authenticity of any individual component part of these Rolex watches. The bracelets described as "associated" are not part of the original piece and may not be authentic.

Prospective buyers should satisfy themselves by personal inspection as to the condition of each Lot. Condition reports can be requested from Christie's and are given 'without prejudice' in accordance with the terms of the conditions of sale and limited warranty printed at the back of the catalogue. Nevertheless, such reports are for general guidance only and will not specify all mechanical replacements or imperfections. Such reports will, of necessity, be subjective. Buyers are advised that certificates are not available unless otherwise stated.

Importation into USA

Prospective purchasers are advised that private individuals are allowed to bring only one Rolex watch purchased abroad into the USA and a letter of permission from Rolex USA is required prior to importation of the watch into the country. For further information please contact the specialist department in charge of the sale.

鐘錶準買家請注意

準買家請注意，目錄中所列的物品均以現狀出售。在可能的範圍內，目錄中對拍賣品的描述已提及重大的損壞情況，惟並不包括所有毛病。瑕疵或重鑲，佳士得並不保證任何腕錶處於良好運作狀況。而目錄中對任何拍賣品的描述皆不應視為如此。對任何拍賣品的描述亦不應視為表示其並無經過重鑲或修理。亦不應視之為對拍賣品的狀況或保存情況的一項陳述。

務請注意，大部份附有防水錶殼的腕錶已被開啟以確認其類型及運轉部份的質素。因此不應假定其仍為防水，而買方應在使用前安排該等手錶經由合資格的鐘錶匠檢查。

務請注意，含量低於18ct的黃金並不是在所有國家均被視為「黃金」，並可能被拒入口。倘若出現被拒入口的情況，佳士得將毋須負上任何責任。

務請注意，佳士得的出售目錄中所述的所有勞力士手錶均以肉眼可見的狀況下出售，而佳士得將不保證此等勞力士手錶的任何個別部份是否原廠製造。該等被描述為「附件」的手鐲並非原件的組成部份，因此可能並非真品。

準買家在作出決定前應親自檢視各拍賣品的狀況。準買家可向佳士得要求提供狀況報告。惟該等報告乃根據目錄後部份所列印的出售狀況及有限度保證的條款，在「佳士得不須承擔任何責任」之情況下提供的。然而該等報告僅屬一般指引，且並無列出所有的機件替換情況或瑕疵。此等報告只屬佳士得的主觀意見。買家請注意，除非另有註明，否則將不獲提供證書。

進口美國

準買家請注意，個別人士僅獲准攜帶一只從外地購買的勞力士手錶進口美國，而將手錶運進美國前須出示美國勞力士錶廠發出的許可函件。欲知詳情，請與負責出售的特別部門聯絡。

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT NOTICES

REGARDING THE SALE OF IVORY AND TORTOISE-SHELL

Prospective purchasers are advised that several countries prohibit the importation of property containing ivory or tortoiseshell. Accordingly, prospective purchasers should familiarise themselves with relevant customs regulations prior to bidding if they intend to import this lot into another country. In this catalogue, works in ivory or tortoiseshell have been marked with an asterisk (*) as a reminder.

有關象牙與玳瑁殼拍賣之重要通告

各位準買家請注意，由於有數個國家禁止含有象牙或玳瑁殼之財物進口，因此，準買家如擬將本批之拍賣品運進另一國家，應在競投之前先行清楚了解該個國家之有關海關規例。以象牙或玳瑁殼製成之拍賣品，於目錄中註有*號，以供識別。

REGARDING ESTIMATED WEIGHTS

Certain weights in the catalogue have been estimated through measurement. These figures are to be used as approximate guidelines and should not be relied upon as exact.

估重須知

目錄所列之某些重量，屬量度後之估計重量。此等數字只可作為約數參考，不可處之為確實重量。

CHRISTIE'S INTERNATIONAL JEWELLERY DEPARTMENT

Our international specialists are available to give further information on this sale and to appraise jewellery to be included in our upcoming auctions in Hong Kong in April as well as for the forthcoming sales in Amsterdam, Geneva, London, Los Angeles, New York, Rome, Singapore and St. Moritz.

International Jewellery Director François Curiel

Geneva

Tel: (41 22) 319 1700
Fax: (41 22) 319 1701

New York

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Song fashions, after Chou Fang

JEWELLERY IN CHINA 1700-1950...

Beauties on a Spring Excursion

*Each double third festival brings freshest air,
And on Changan's riverbanks are found ladies fair.
With lofty looks, their manners are refined and serene;
Yet their figures are resplendent with a voluptuous sheen.
In the light of late spring their muslin robes shine
With Gold peacocks and silver unicorns in finely sewn lines.
What is that on their heads one can see?
Long floral jade ornaments that past their temples hang free.
And what can be seen as they saunter past?
Pearl streamers from jewelled wristbands swinging so fast.
Like clouds by the sun are the Concubine's kiu
Embossed Queens of the Kingdoms of Guo and of Qin.
Served purple camel humps from antique bronze pots,
While carps on crystal dishes are brought steaming hot,
Sated, thincores horn chopsticks are thrown down,
While meat cut with musical knives bring only a frown.....*

Du Fu, 712-770 AD

Until the 1950s, Chinese jewellery was a little studied subject. Little was known about its forms, its appearance when worn and even less knowledge about its evolution. It was probably considered the most minor among the minor arts, unmentioned in most reviews of Chinese art, exciting little comment even from Chinese scholars.

In fact, luxurious adornment has always been very important in Chinese culture. In most dynasties it was used both extensively by men and women as emblems of power, wealth, as well as being a badge of rank. Certain jewels were considered so desirable, that sumptuary laws were often enacted in order to restrain the extravagance of moneyed classes, and prevent them from wearing jewels restricted to the aristocracy.

Jewellery was also intimately connected with the Chinese vision of feminine beauty as celebrated in painting and literature. For example, at the climax of "Song of eternal regret" by Bai juyi, when the archetypal Chinese femme fatale, the imperial concubine Yang Gui Fei is strangled, the image of ruined beauty is symbolised by the scattering of her hair ornaments as she falls to the ground.

*"...None would pick up her hairpins fallen to the ground
the jade and gold phoenixes with which she was crowned..."*

Thus jewellery, with its connotations of a hedonistic enjoyment of luxury, reflecting the frivolous, pleasure-seeking and libertine side of the Chinese, naturally excited the disapproval of moralists such as Confucius, who even in his lifetime, constantly preached moderation and restraint to his clientele of extravagant princelings. The faintly erotic undertone of much of this literature hardly recommended it as a suitable serious subject for study by scholars.

Moral issues aside, there were also good art historical reasons for the general absence of scholarship on Chinese jewellery. Because of the extraordinary variety of media which were used for making jewellery (including organic materials such as butterflies wings and iridescent beetles carapaces), it was always seen as a subset of another art form rather than independently studied. Moreover since much of the jewellery is made on a small scale, they were considered less important than monumental pieces made out of the same material.

For example, objects of adornment made in jade have always been discussed in the wider context of jade carving, placed side by side in Museums and books with ritual objects and decorative items. Similarly gold and silver inlaid bronze jewellery is usually seen in context with the subjectively more significant ritual vessels of similar construction.

This all changed with the spectacular archeological discoveries of the last few years. Many of these consisted of the excavations of undisturbed tombs of the Chinese nobility. Since many of these nobles were buried in full ceremonial costumes including their jewels of state, a record of personal adornment in its context of fashion has emerged.

At the same time, there has been increased availability of excavated material which has allowed the formation of collections of Chinese jewellery for the first time. The exhibition "Adornments for Eternity", at the Denver Art Institute is but one example of what has been achieved in this respect. The excellent copy of "Orientations" which accompanied the launch of the exhibition, included articles showing the latest writing in English on the subject. While in China, a few extremely well researched books have been written on the subject of costume and accessories, of the most scholarly being *Zhongguo guxing fulunye* by Sun Ji.

A picture now emerged regarding the main types of jewellery that were used at different times in China's long history. A brief summary of some of the main types of techniques used throughout this history helps appreciate the complexity of this field.

1 Ornaments made entirely of stone

Jewellery created purely using lapidary methods, with no further embellishment, is the oldest type of jewellery known in China and dates from the neolithic period. Included in this group are the jade and hardstone bangles, rings and pendants carved with holes for suspension. During the Warring States and Han dynasty, many of these pendants were knotted together with silk, and composed as long tassels over flowing robes.

2 Jewellery made in base metal

These consists of two types of jewels, with many of the best pieces dating from the Warring States. The first group are inlaid gilt bronze ornaments. These pieces are often masterpieces of the metallurgists, made with the lost wax technique and subsequently inlaid with gold and silver, and sometimes with turquoise and jade.

In this period, jade ornaments are sometimes found with bronze and copper metal fittings, a subset of the earlier type fusing the different traditions in order to make a new form.

3 Jewellery made in Gold and Silver

Again these can be divided into two groups, the first being jewels which rely entirely on metallurgical effects such as granulation, filigree or engraving to create their decoration. These were a specialty during the Tang dynasty (618-906 AD), although in technical virtuosity there is very little to equal some of the hairpins found in the earlier Six Dynasties period (220-518 AD).

Also included in this group are jewels which are made primarily of gold and silver but which have been embellished with precious stones such as turquoise, rubies or sapphires. These are usually inlaid into raised cloisons, or box-set within the gold.

4 Jewellery in other precious materials

This group is closely related to group 1 in that many of the forms found in jade such as bangles and *pei*, are also found in other materials. However, because the materials have a different nature from jade the techniques used in their manufacture are different. For example, glass, which was very highly valued since Han times, was used to make bangles and beads, but are decorated in a very different style.

This group also reflects the different materials that have been regarded as precious and includes exotic organic materials such as elephants hair, rhinoceros horn and walrus ivory.

5 Jewellery made of perishable materials

The Chinese also greatly admired perishable materials of brilliant colours. Traces of jewellery made from birds feathers have been found in tombs dating over two thousand years old. This seems to have developed into a type of jewellery utilising the brilliant turquoise feathers of the Kingfisher and the equally bright blue wings of tropical butterflies. This material was cut into small pieces and painstakingly overlain on a metal background primed with a type of lacquer or organic glue. The most famous of these pieces is the massive crown found in the Ding Ling underground mausoleum complex that belonged to the wife of the Emperor Wan Li.

This group also includes *xin zhu*, or embroidered jewellery which used small beads of semiprecious materials and sewn together with gold, metal or other wire to make artificial flowers.

These were the product of a sophisticated cottage industry because it was fashionable for wealthy ladies, including those of the court, to make their own hair ornaments using small pieces of jewellery bought from itinerant vendors, in order to demonstrate their taste and skill with their hands.

These classifications are to a certain extent artificial, but illustrates the great variety of types of adornment that can be found throughout Chinese history. The admiration for the antique that was part of Chinese taste for over a thousand years ensured the survival of many ancient styles, although every age would provide its own changing interpretations.