

## TOGGLES

Toggles are beautifully fashioned small objects traditionally used by the Chinese and other peoples as decorative counter-balances for the various costume and personal accessories worn suspended from the belt or sash. Among such accessories were pouches and purses, cases of various kinds for fans, pipes, spectacles, archers' thumb-rings, calling-cards and needles and combs, as well as portable knife-chopstick sets and strike-a-light kits.

Generally two to three inches in greatest dimension, but with their size dependent upon their shape and weight, toggles were fashioned from a wide variety of materials in a great diversity of form and with an endless range of decoration. These decorative motifs almost always drew their inspiration from the marvelously rich body of Chinese folklore. The better known Japanese *netsuke*, used similarly, derived from the Chinese form.

The book shown, *Substance and Symbol in Chinese Toggles*, contains a description of the many substances of which toggles were made and of the symbolism represented in them. It also serves as a catalog of this collection, assembled by Miss C. F. Bieber and presented by her to the Museum.

[case on door of storeoom]

Cat.No.

- ✓166684 ✓ Antler button toggle attached to Mongolian flint-and-steel set. [Cammann No. 14]. Neg.#99914.
- ✓166688 ✓ Mammoth tusk toggle attached to Mongol knife and chopstick set, in case. [Cammann No. 18]. Neg.#99918.
- ✓166699 ✓ Nephrite jade toggle w/silver fittings attached to knife & chopstick set, in case. [Cammann No. 29]. Neg.#99929.
- ✓166903 ✓ Disc toggle in ivory attached to chopstick set, in case. China. Neg.#100131.
- ✓166904 ✓ Pink stone (rose quartz or glass) toggle with silver fittings. China. Neg.#100132.
- ✓166905 ✓ Double utility toggle; also, a small wooden container w/enamelled screw cap. China. Neg.#100133.
- ✓166906 ✓ Wooden cluster of mushrooms. China. Neg.#100134.
- ✓166907 ✓ Wooden miniature stone weight. China. Neg.#100135.
- ✓166909 ✓ Metal ju-i scepter, probably brass. China. Neg.#100137.
- ✓166910 ✓ Boy carved in white jade. China. Neg.#100138.
- (book) ✓ Substance and Symbol in Chinese Toggles by Schuyler Cammann. opened to pp. 212-213.