

Ming Dynasty jade carvers manipulated early styles.

The Mongols conquered all of China in 1279, ending the Sung rule and establishing their own dynasty, the Yüan, with the capital at Peking. The dynasty lasted only until 1368 and was too brief to produce a distinctive jade carving style.

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The Mongols were expelled in 1368 and the Ming Dynasty was established. Ming artists and craftsmen, while reviving Sung traditions, produced an art particularly their own. They executed their own versions of Chou bronze styles, distorting proportions and symmetry to produce disturbing effects. The multicolored jade disk is decorated with a traditional dragon and cloud motif, but the intentional confusion of the markings on the jade with the decoration makes the design difficult to read. In this way the ancient styles were brought up-to-date with the increasingly elaborate Ming and Ch'ing taste.

Specimens left to right:

o Bronze <u>ku</u>	117562 (C)
p Stone pitcher	183336 (A)
o Jade disk	183343 (A) - ng # 516500, 71645, 101880-1
• Jade pitcher	33469 (N)
o Bronze <u>kuei</u>	117582 (C)
• Blade	182668 (J) - ng # 872373-4, 74840
• Blade	182827 (A) - ng # 51662
o Jade <u>kuei</u>	116638 (C) - ng # 35863, 74139

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