

My First Stone of Jade

My first stone of jade looked good to me as a beginner because there were lots of greens and at good price. I was told that it came from the mother-provenance of jade, Myanmar, where jade is famous for its emerald green colour that nowhere else in the world (such as Japan, California or Guatemala) can compete.



My first stone of jade was bought from a jade-hawker who stationed at Canton Road near Jordan every morning. I was a layman to jade but I did try to choose my stone by weighing it in a sense of its density, check the colour etc., however, most importantly, I did not see that there were numerous cracks/fissures which cut every inch of my stone.



The stone was then arranged for cutting using a homemade machine in an upstairs workshop. The stone was cut into two halves. One half of the stone was designed for carving out figures, but no jade pendants, rings or any products of animals could be made from the stone due to many existing cracks. It was then inevitably cut and polished to beads for making chains of jade. After all, I thought it valued for experience.



In geological point of view, the stone is still considered beautiful when we look at the minerals not only from its fresh appearance but also on its skin that some relatively large, well-formed pyroxenes and amphiboles could easily be identified. Some of them were in aligned orientations. The skin of this stone was thin and had no value for making any jade products from it. The colour of the stone was green but it was not graded as good as emerald green or similar. There were also some “white flowers” making its value deflating. To some jade experts, this piece of jade was only good for beginners!



From the time I bought my first stone of jade, it has been our habit to gather at a restaurant in most weekends with friends who are fond of jade and enjoy sharing the beauty of our stones.



(No dim-sum but stones of jade)