Art Around the Belly:
Tracing the Cultural Significance and Artistic Value of Belt Hooks in Ancient China

by

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A thesis submitted in conformity with the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts
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Abstract

The belt hook was used to fasten garments in ancient China long before the existence of belt buckles or plaques. Its use first appeared more than five thousand years ago and can be prevalently observed in paintings, on statuettes, and even on the famous Terracotta Army. Although it was such a common personal ornament, little has been written on this subject. My thesis will explore, through excavation data, coupled by my research on the extensive collection of belt hooks at the Royal Ontario Museum, how the examination of these ancient Chinese ornaments can not only reveal the status and wealth of its wearer, but also the cultural complexities and social advancements of that time.
Acknowledgments

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Dr. Chen Shen, my supervisor and mentor, who’s expertise and passion for his field has led me to pursue a career in East Asian Studies. Thank you for always pushing me to do better, the completion of my Master’s would not have been possible without your continuing support, guidance, and encouragement. Furthermore, thank you for the privilege of being able to access the Royal Ontario Museum’s extensive collection of belt hooks. The advice and knowledge you bestowed upon me proved to be invaluable during my study.

I would also like to thank everyone at the Department of East Asian Studies and the ROM’s World Cultures Department for making my graduate experience such a wonderful one.

This thesis is dedicated to my parents, who have always supported me in everything I do, no matter what choices I make in life. Thank you for encouraging me to pursue my passion and for always being there for me. I could not have done it without your support, abundance of love, and for always believing in me, even when I did not.

Finally, I would like to thank Lance McMillan, who’s help and dedication to me were key in the completion of this thesis.
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He who steals a belt hook pays with his life; he who steals a state gets to be a feudal lord - and we all know that benevolence and righteousness are to be found at the gates of the feudal lords. Is this not a case of stealing benevolence and righteousness and the wisdom of the sages?

The Complete Works of Zhuangzi, Outer chapter, section 10
(Translated by Burton Watson)

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 An Overview

Belts are an everyday fashion accessory and necessity worn by both men and women as far back as five thousands of years ago. Before the modern day belt buckle, which is used to fasten a leather strap around the waist, a simpler belt hook was used in ancient China as a trouser fastener. The earliest belt hooks discovered to date

Figure 1.1: A Liangzhu jade belt hook. Length 7.5cm, width 4.5cm, thickness 3.6cm (Gu and Li 2013: 43)
in China belong to the Liangzhu culture (3300 - 2400 BC). The hooks are jade in material, rectangular in shape, and the front decorated with a flat line incision resembling an animal or creature-like face (figure 1.1). A cloth strap or string is then put through the hole, and the hook is used to secure the belt (depicted on figure 1.2). Less than a dozen similar belt hooks were excavated in burial tombs belonging to the Neolithic period (Wang 2012: 89). Now displayed in the Shanghai museum, this Liangzhu belt hook (figure 1.1) is one of the earliest belt hooks discovered, also exemplifying one of the earliest clothing ornaments worn by people at the dawn of Chinese civilization.

1.2 Research Objectives

Belt hooks may appear as insignificant garment hooks, however, upon closer examination of their place in Chinese history, these waist ornaments possess a cultural significance that has been largely overlooked. In both classic texts and paintings, coupled by archaeological evidence, belt hooks appeared to be an imperative part in the everyday life of people, and slowly evolved to become symbols for the noble and royal family to reflect wealth, status, as well as personal taste. Further analysis on the development of belt hooks can provide insight into the iconological studies on the dynastic features and characteristics from different periods embodied by these garments hooks.

It was not until the Zhou dynasty (1110 - 221 BC) that belt hooks began to flourish. These belt hooks drastically differ from those of Neolithic cultures, which were simpler in design and shape, and primarily jade. The belt hooks from the Zhou dynasty onward, consists of three components: the head (hook), body, and a back stud (figure 1.3). The back stud is attached to the hole on one side of a cloth or leather strap, while the head is hooked on a hole on the opposite side.

Figure 1.2: How a Liangzhu jade belt hook may be worn around the waist (Wang 2012:92)

Figure 1.3: Three components of a belt hook (960.234.382, ROM collection)
(figure 1.4). Belt hooks vary in material and design. The most commonly used material was bronze, the least common materials were bone, glass, silver, gold, and agate. The bronze belt hooks were often gilded with silver or gold, and sometimes inlaid with semi-precious gemstones. Jade belt hooks were also common, but usually less decorated with other materials. Evidence for the use of belt hooks and its popularity are clearly represented in the famous discovery of Emperor Qinshihuang’s Terracotta Army. Each soldier was given various facial expressions, hair styles, and clothes to signify their rank and position. Clearly visible around the belly of many of the terracotta soldiers not wearing armour, are various types of belt hooks (figure 1.5). This could be the result of Qinshihuang’s quest for creating a realistic representation of his army. If this is the case, one may be able to draw a more accurate picture of the social and fashion trends during that period. This thesis will explore and investigate not only the classification and development of belt hooks in ancient China, but also provide an interdisciplinary study on these ancient garment fasteners, including the historical development, cultural significance, and archaeological discoveries in hopes of revealing any non-utilitarian meanings. This is what makes the belt hook such an interesting object of study. Before examining how belt hooks may fit into this framework of symbolism in material culture, one must first get a good understanding of what exactly material culture is.

1.3 Material Culture

Marxism, structuralism, and semiotics are the three most common theoretical perspectives in the study of material
culture (Tilley 2006: 7). While Marxism primarily concerns itself with material culture in relation to production, exchange and consumption, the structuralist and semiotic approaches focus on the objects themselves and their significance in relation to social and cultural meanings (Tilley 2006: 7). The study of objects, their value to its users, producers and receivers, as well as the notion of power that may influence exchange, consumption and appropriation of these objects, must be examined. Our everyday lives revolve around material objects and tangible goods, such as tools, shelters, and clothing. The immediate connection between a society and its people, and material objects, help us to understand and study the past and present. According to Hurcombe (2007), material culture “is a social construct based on the physical properties of materials and how these can be obtained and formed into artefacts” (111). An important component of material culture is the study of artefacts, as “an artefact is defined as anything made or modified by people, so artefacts are not just ‘things’ but are intricately linked with people’s needs, capabilities, and aspirations” (Hurcombe 2007: 3). The importance of studying materials from the past is highlighted further by Hurcombe, for instance,

“clothes keep us warm but they do much more than this. Most people possess a comb, but it is not a true necessity and its functional form may vary according to hair style and texture while the choice of material, colour, and decoration depend upon prevailing fashion, status, and individual choice. Technologies and developments within them and the function of objects are key aspects of artefact studies, but they are not the only ones and there is a social dimension to all artefact studies” (Hurcombe 2007: 6).

Thus, it is essential to study tangible objects because they are “vehicles for…self-realization of the identities of individuals and groups because they provide a fundamental non-discursive mode of communication (Tilley 2006: 7), and like text, “becomes separated from its author, things also become detached from their context of production and enter into dialogue with other texts through the dynamic act of interpretation” and is read and interpreted by its viewer (Olsen 2006: 90).

Tangible objects provide insight into the producers, makers, and users themselves. These objects can also provide further understanding on social and cultural aspects of the society of
which they belong (Keane 2006: 197). Like scientific and philosophical concepts, the study of these material objects and their relation to people also give reference to “the broader conceptual opposition between subject and object” (Keane 2006: 197). One of the basic understandings of the relations between subject and object is representation (Keane 2006: 197). The object, quite literally, is an artifact under study that serves as “representations of and for subjects” (Keane 2006: 198). Such a representational approach “invites the analyst to see through the material of the object in the effort to grasp the more abstract structure it is supposed to express. The subject tends to be identified with the resulting abstractions, the object, as something material, remains apart” (Keane 2006: 199). The classic approach of representation within the study of material culture has been attempted by scholars such as Emile Durkheim and Marcel Mauss. For instance, they argued that physical aspects of the said object signify and give meanings to societal or cultural meanings within a society (Keane 2006: 198). This approach is not without limitations, however. One such limitation of the approach between subject and object is that the representational factor often over-shadows the physical and material aspects of said object. Keeping its limitations in mind, the studying of material objects can be a useful tool to examine and define the past. A simple garment hook, beyond its utilitarian aspects, possesses social significance and can “interact to create bold or nuanced meanings” (Hurcombe 2007: 7) and is a key issue in this thesis. The status of King Zhao Mo 赵眜, from the Nanyue kingdom, can be affirmed through the belt hook placed in the burial tomb, which I will elaborate on in a later chapter.

Concepts of materiality and the study of tangible objects are no longer limited to disciplines like anthropology and archaeology (Odner 2008: 65), as it is also relevant to a wide range of academic fields, such as sociology, history, and cultural studies, as well as art and literary studies. According to Tilley et al (2006),

“materiality is thus typically used to refer to the fleshy, corporeal and physical, as opposed to spiritual, ideal and value-laden aspects of human existence. Materiality can also be taken to refer to individual things, or collections of things, rather than to persons or societies. Things are typically referred to in terms of material possessions and to physical and economic well-being” (Tilley et al 2006: 3).
Material objects, therefore, serve as a way to construct, shape, and define the identity of its users and makers. These objects, as Tilley et al put it, are “signs bearing meanings, signifying beyond themselves” (Tilley et al 2006: 7). Hence, it is crucial to consider the relationship between things and its maker, the “subjects and objects are indelibly linked” (Tilley et al 2006: 4). Material culture encompasses multiple layers of meanings, it is “a set of social relationships between people and things, and above all it is a way of communicating as well as enabling” (Hurcombe 2007: 7). Hence, it must be defined in concrete terms, in which the context is most crucial when analyzing material objects such as belt hooks.

1.4 Culture and Identity of the Past

Culture is difficult and problematic to define. Particularly, the temptation of falling into an Orientalist mode of thinking is particularly strong when studying a foreign and unknown culture. According to Hodos, “culture encompasses the social production and reproduction of meaning” (Hodos 2010: 3). If culture is said to be socially constructed, then to understand and define it through material culture is “performative in the ways in which these identities are expressed, whether through the repeated use of an object in specific contexts or particular ways” (Hodos 2010: 19). In other words, material objects may be used in ways subjective to the conscious of its maker, and the meaning does not necessarily transfer through the process of exchange. With the study of material culture, tangible objects allow us to derive and deduce probable inferences about past cultures and civilizations. Personal ornaments, in particular, can provide a glimpse into the life and personality of its wearer. According to Powers,

“if material and workmanship can encode scales of value, pictorial forms can make claims about the thing depicted. Both the values and the claims must have a referent. That referent can be the owner, the artist, or the world ‘out there,’ depending upon the nature of the style employed. By manipulating these claims and their referents, artifacts can shape a person’s status, self-esteem, public persona, or even one’s identity” (Powers 2006: 2).

Belt hooks are one such type of personal ornament, both with utilitarian and decorative purposes that can serve as a way to construct, shape, and define the identity of its users and makers. The
descriptive motif on these objects allows symbolic meanings and cultural values to be derived from these ornaments. These objects are almost never neutral in meaning or in what they represent. Often the material, labour, and craftsmanship that go into the making of an object give it its value (Powers 2006: 2). This type of value is more or less tangible, as the physical object tells its own story and in comparison to products of similar type in different periods. The study of these ancient Chinese belt hooks can reveal not only personal characteristics of its wearer, but also cultural complexities and social advancements. Ancient belt hooks not only possess these artistic and aesthetic values, but they are a work of art in their own right.

1.5 Belt Hooks as Art

The word “art” warrants some explanation. Art is a relatively new term that emerged in Chinese history and is of Western origin (Clunas 1997: 9). Hence, it is important to define and understand art without falling into an Orientalist mode of thinking, where it is used to deepen the gap between the West and the East, the dichotomy between “us” and “them.” According to Clunas, to define and understand Chinese art, as opposed to art in general, one must examine what has been historically considered as art in China (1997:12). The commonly known Chinese “art” is typically in the form of calligraphy and paintings, both produced by the imperial court and famous literati. Another type of art is where the aesthetic value is consciously applied by its maker, thus ranging widely from burial goods to tomb art (Clunas 1997:13). Using tangible artefacts and borrowing material objects from the past, can illuminate a greater understanding of self-expression of the Chinese people. Belt hooks seem fitting in this general and brief definition of art.

1.6 Chapter Summaries

The subsequent chapter presents a review of literature on belt hooks in ancient China. This includes the research of Wang Renxiang, a renowned archaeologist from the Institute of Archaeology, Chinese Academy of Social Science, who is one of the few scholars to discuss these garment hooks in great detail. In this section, I intend to provide a review of literature published regarding belt hooks in ancient China, including journal articles and books written both in English and Chinese. There are also scholars (e.g. Powers 2006, Myers and Salviati
2002) who contribute to the study of belt hooks in far less detail than Wang, usually through a general analysis of personal ornaments, while others (e.g. Ma 2010, Hua 2011) mention belt hooks in passing while primarily discussing clothing and textiles of ancient China. The main component of chapter three comprises of archaeological discoveries of belt hooks excavated in the early 2000s and 1990s in order to provide a better look at the typology and development of belt hooks. In addition, this chapter provides a brief survey of some of those sites and investigates the relationship between the identity and the status of the people buried. Chapter four details the Royal Ontario Museum’s collection of ancient Chinese belt hooks, including a survey of belt hooks that is representative of each type of belt hook in ancient China that possess distinct dynastic features and designs. The last chapter consists of my interpretations and inferences about ancient Chinese belt hooks through my research and analysis.
Chapter 2

Research Background: What We Know Thus Far

2.1 Past and Current Research

Generally speaking, studies on the direct analysis of belt hooks remains limited and fragmented in academic publications. As previously mentioned, Wang Renxiang is one of the first and few scholars to take an interest in the study of ancient Chinese belt hooks. Therefore, Wang’s articles play a key component by detailing the development and typology of belt hooks. There is also literature published on themes indirectly related to belt hooks, such as journal articles and books, which primarily focus on personal ornaments and fashion. Nonetheless, these publications will contribute to my interpretation and analysis of these ancient belt hooks, of which I will only discuss the few that are most relevant in better understanding them.

Wang’s recent published book, Ancient Belt Hooks and Buckles 善自约束 - 古代带钩与帯扣, consists of articles originally published in peer-reviewed journals such as Kaogu, and Acta Archaeologica Sinica, with the addition of new discoveries and interpretations. Chapter one contains the first significant survey on belt hooks compiled by any scholar. Wang focuses mainly on the typology of belt hooks through archaeological discoveries. In chapter two, he discusses the different usages of belt hooks in ancient China, as garment hooks to ornament and sword...
hangers. This was originally published in the 1980s, when any discussion on the development and typology of jade belt hooks was lacking. In *Ancient Belt Hooks and Buckles*, Wang dedicated two chapters to the discovery of jade belt hooks from the Liangzhu culture. He then details the specifications of jade belt hooks and types from each dynastic periods. Wang’s writings paved the foundation for the study of belt hooks in establishing a workable typology of belt hooks, which has been cited by scholars numerous times thereafter. Wang also touches upon the debate on belt hooks from central China to those from the Ordos region, now in the south of Inner Mongolia. Since the designs are drastically different from these two regions, Wang dismisses the hypothesis on the origin of belt hooks in central China which said that they possessed Ordos cultural influence. Using archaeological data as supporting evidence, the author claims that belt hooks in ancient China actually developed independently.

In “Comparative Study on the Belt Hook of Ordos and Central China” (2008), Dai Geng sheds some more light on this debate. In the Ordos region, the people’s way of life and beliefs were reflected in the design of belt hooks, which were mainly decorated with mammals, such as tigers, leopards, and wolves and vividly depicted a playful nature, as well as many hunting scenes. In later periods, life on the prairies became peaceful and stable, and the design of belt hooks began to incorporate domesticated animals such as sheep, horses, and deer, as well as naturalistic scenes and landscapes. There was also evidence of the use of belt plaques, usually rectangular in shape with openwork design that hangs at the end of the leather belt. The designs show influences of Sino-Siberian culture and art, often depicting the life of nomadic tribes from this region. When the Ordos region came under the control of central China during the Qin and Han dynasties, influences of central China were readily reflected on the design of belt hooks from this period (Dai 2002: 722). The main difference between Ordos belt hooks and those from central China, is that while Ordos belt hooks often illustrate realism and their way of life, belt hooks from central China were more abstract in design. The author concludes that there were cultural exchanges and influences between the two regions, which also helps detail the development of fashion and trends throughout ancient China (Dai 2002: 723). Therefore, differing from Wang’s opinion, Dai concludes that since there were cultural exchanges between
central China and the Ordos region, perhaps the cultural influences led to the variation in design and form of belt hooks seen in central China.

Belt hooks became a prevalent part in the everyday life of people in ancient China. Supported by the amount of belt hooks excavated, its popularity reached its height during the Eastern Zhou dynasty (771 - 221 BC). It is also interesting to note that found within the famous Terracotta Army of the Qin dynasty, different types of belt hooks are carved around the soldiers’ bellies. In Liu Zhancheng’s “Brief Survey of Belt Hooks on Terracotta Warriors” (1985), Liu tentatively divided the belt hooks into six different types based on his observations, and through the pre-existing typology outlined by Wang. The first type is animal shaped, which can be further divided into four forms: fish, bird, duck, and tadpole; the second type is the shape of farming tools, such as a hoe or a shovel; the third type is weapon shaped, those used in military; the fourth type is in the shape of everyday utensils, such as a spoon or a gourd; the fifth is in the shape of musical instruments, such as the *pipa*. The last type is irregular or abstract in shape, such as coiling and cloud designs, or human figures. Although the article provides an interesting study on belt hooks seen on the Terracotta Army, the author does not deal with the significance of these belt hooks, or as to why they were included when building the first emperor’s army. Was this the idea of the artisans that made them, or a reflection of Qinshihuang’s ambition? A more in-depth analysis of these garment hook is needed to answer these questions. The aforementioned articles only specifically deal with the physical aspects of belt hooks, but lack any cultural influences or their development in ancient China, which is what I hope to detail in my research.

As the primary use of belt hooks was to fasten trousers, the study of ancient Chinese clothing cannot go unmentioned. During the Western Zhou dynasty (1046 - 771 BC), more than a thousand years after the production of the jade Liangzhu belt hooks, these garment accessories became common. During this period, rites and ritual practices were documented in ancient classics such as the Analects, which speaks to the significance of belt hooks in ritual and ceremonial purposes (Ma 2010: 36). It is interesting that the author makes the connection between one of the earliest belt hooks discovered and ancient Chinese clothing. Similar books on
Chinese clothing, such as *Chinese Dress and Adornments of Various Periods* by Huang Nengfu and Chen Juanjuan; and Hua Mei’s *Chinese Clothing: Garment, Accessory and Culture* (2011), discuss ancient dress codes. Few ways to study or gather information about ancient Chinese clothing is through the writings and statuettes that reflect the way people dressed during a specific dynasty. Using this as evidence, Ma determined that people wore two types of belts, one made of silk or cloth, and the other leather. The cloth was used to fasten the skirt-trouser inside, the leather to fasten the jacket on top. As the cloth and silk cords were not sturdy enough to hold a pendant, the leather belt and hook was then used to hang these personal ornaments. The two types of belts work together and were also aesthetically pleasing. Although one of the first belt hooks originated and disappeared with the Liangzhu culture, the limited number of belt hooks during this period suggest that they were only restricted to the elite (Ma 2010: 36). However, more exploration and in-depth analysis of the connection between the first use of belt hooks and ancient Chinese clothing still needs to be done, including a more comprehensive survey of ancient classics that recorded dress codes in ancient China in various dynastic periods.

### 2.2 Belt Hooks from a Western Perspective

The initial use of belt hooks is intimately connected to the development of fashion. The belt became part of the dress system which was strictly regulated during the Qing dynasty, appearing in paintings depicting both formal and informal court dresses (Vollmer and Simcox 2010: 36). It is difficult to study pre-Han dynasty clothing due to the lack of archaeological evidence. Thus, the reliance on tangible objects such as belt hooks allow us to infer something about the way people dressed in ancient China, as well as to the aesthetic value of its wearer and the skillful artisans that once made these garment hooks.

Before delving into the significance of belt hooks as a personal ornament, one must first discuss the ornamental tradition in China commonly seen on bronze and jade carvings. Power’s *Pattern and Person: Ornament, Society, and Self in Classical China* (2006) provides a theoretical basis and argument on the intimate relationship between personal ornaments and its wearer. According to Powers, “artifacts can shape a person’s status, self-esteem, public persona,
or even one’s identity” (2006: 2). The descriptive motif on these objects allows symbolic meanings and cultural values to be derived from these ornaments. These artifacts are almost never neutral in meaning or in what they represent. Often the material, labour and craftsmanship that go into the making of an artifact give it its value (Powers 2006: 2). This type of value is more or less tangible, as the physical artifact not only tells its own story, but does so in comparison to products of a similar type in different periods. Hence, the values outlined in Power’s book can be applied when studying belt hooks in ancient China, as many decorative carvings on these garments hooks have similar or identical design as bronze ritual vessels.

Continuing on the discussion on ornaments, The Language of Adornment: Chinese Ornaments of Jade, Crystal, Amber and Glass by Myrna Myers (2002), with an introduction written by Filippo Salviati, Salviati discusses the significance of personal adornments in ancient China, from belt hooks to earrings, necklaces, and pendants. Ornaments are not an essential part of one’s everyday wear, but it can play an important role in revealing not only one’s aesthetic value and taste, but personality, and status within a specific cultural context. The material and design motif used to make an adornment are also a good indicator of the prestige and status of its wearer and the value of the adornment itself (Myers and Salviati 2002: 1). Ornaments are like a language, “which is meant to be seen, read and interpreted.” By wearing these ornaments, they are “meant to create a symbolic or significant body covered with particular images, icons and patterns, each conveying a precise message” (Myers and Salviati 2002: 2-3). Examples of belt hooks from the Neolithic to the Qing dynasty are included in this book. The featured belt hooks illustrate the shifting design motifs throughout each dynastic period, as well as highlight the purpose of signifying the spirit and virtue of its wearer (Myers and Salviati 2002: 1).

One article, published in 1963, focuses on a on a gold and jade belt hook in Harvard’s Fogg Museum, but does not touch upon the development and origin of belt hooks in a broader context. In order to examine how belt hooks may embody values important to the Chinese, such as those when it comes to ritual vessels or ceremonial wear, I surveyed books on the study of bronze objects, vessels, and jade carvings, such as Jessica Rawson’s Ancient China: Art and Archaeology (1980), Mysteries of Ancient China: New Discoveries from the Early Dynasties (1996), and Treasures from Shanghai: Ancient Chinese Bronzes and Jades (2009); W. T. Chase’s
Ancient Chinese Bronze Art: Casting the Precious Sacral Vessel (1991); Elizabeth Childs-Johnson’s Ritual and Power: Jades of Ancient China (1988); and Gu Fang and Li Hongjuan’s recent publication on Chinese Jade: The Spiritual and Cultural Significance of Jade in China (2013). The aforementioned sources outline carving techniques and decorative designs on both bronze and jade objects that are also detected on belt hooks. Although some of the sources do not mention belt hooks specifically, important connections and inferences can be made between belt hooks as a personal ornament, and the social and cultural changes that took place in different dynastic periods.
Chapter 3

Archaeological Typology and Evolution

3.1 Typology

An important part of archaeology is evaluating the “value and the role of an object in the past system,” and as such it is imperative “to understand the context of an artefact, as well as to study it for itself” (Hurcombe 2007: 12). Types, an archaeological term, means “names to go with the very specific categories of different kinds of cultural objects…usually distinguished by both a kind of material and a particular shape” (Hurcombe 2007: 8). In the study of belt hooks, Wang Renxiang provides a detailed type division of belt hooks. According to the author, these ancient belt hooks can be divided into eight different types. The first type is bird 鸟/水禽 shaped, a popular design during the Spring and Autumn period. The same design was also evident in the Qing dynasty, where the archaic bird motif is reminiscent of designs popular during the Zhou dynasty. The second type is shaped to resemble a feline or monster mask 兽面, sometimes depicted with large ears, a Chu style trait during the Warring States Period (Wang 1985: 281). The third type is si 矛 or shield shaped, a farming tool primarily used during the Qin dynasty. The majority of the third type belt hooks were unearthed near the Sanpu 三普 and Guanzhong 关中 areas (Wang 1985: 281). The fourth type is stick 棒 shaped, which can be further divided into
three subtypes, each with its own specific characteristics seen in different dynastic periods. For example, the curved stick belt hooks have a back stud near the foot of the hook and were common during the late Han period; belt hooks with less curvature and a back button near the middle or front were mainly seen in the Eastern Han dynasty (Wang 1985: 282). The fifth type is pipa 琵琶 shaped, a traditional Chinese stringed instrument, and can be divided into two subtypes: one with a wide body and one with a narrow body. The sixth type is rectangular 长牌 shaped. This type of belt hooks typically consists of inlays of various materials. For the seventh type, the belt hook is mammal 兽 shaped, such as that of a tiger. The eighth and final type is irregular, or abstract 异 shaped. The designs range from human figures to more abstract designs, none of which could be categorized into the previous stated types (Wang 1985: 289).

3.2 Historical Development

The earliest belt hook discovered dates back to the Neolithic period. It is made of jade and belonged to the Liangzhu culture, a large settlement located in the Zhejiang province around 3300 to 2400 BC. The manufacturing industry of Liangzhu was particularly advanced, evident by the use and manipulation of jade. The manufacturing of jade into specialized objects was only for the consumption of the elite (Sun 1993: 22). The possession of a belt hook was an indicator of wealth and statues, and only an individual with a privileged social status could have possessed one.

The popularity of belt hooks did not reach its height until the Zhou dynasty, particularly during the Eastern Zhou dynasty, where it was seen in the possession of even more elites, evident by archaeological discoveries of belt hooks in noble tombs. The Eastern Zhou is divided into two periods, the Spring and Autumn period (771 - 481 BC), and the Warring States period (481 - 221 BC). Since the mid to late Warring States period, an abundance of belt hooks were excavated in locations belonging to the Qin, Chu and Jin states, many with intricate and elaborate designs (Wang 1985: 277). The advancement made in bronze casting and jade carving techniques during this period mark an important stage in the development of Chinese culture. The gilding techniques of silver and gold were also mastered by this time, showcasing the skill advancement
of artisans and the aesthetic demands of its wearers (Zou and Zeng 2003: 119). These techniques were reflected in the designs of belt hooks.

The use of belt hooks became more prevalent during the Qin (221 - 206 BC) and Han (206 - 220 AD) dynasties. Due to the short time span of the Qin dynasty, archaeological evidence is less plentiful than it is in the Han dynasty. However, the belt hooks depicted on Qinshihuang’s Terracotta Army may be enough evidence to suggest that belt hooks were a popular personal ornament during that time. During the Han dynasty, ritual and other ceremonial gestures became commonplace (Ding 2007: 201). Like belt hooks from the Liangzhu culture, the design motif and carving techniques from the Han dynasty reflected the social complexity and advancement in craftsmanship. There are two decorative motifs popular during this period: soft and fluid lines that depict realism (figure 3.1), and rough and rigid lines with abstract designs (figure 3.2) (Zhao 2011: 14).

One key discovery pertained to the tomb of the Nanyue King, Zhao Mo 趙昧. One silver and three jade belt hooks were found in the main coffin chamber buried near the head of the deceased, with four bronze belt hooks unearthed in the main chamber (Lam 1991: 58). One of the jade belt hooks is comprised of eight segments of jade and held together by a bronze stick in the centre (figure 3.3). The body of the hook is of open-work design and resembles a dragon with protruding features, which may symbolize power and authority (The CPAM of Guangzhou et al 1991: 189). The silver belt hook is in the shape of the Big Dipper (figure 3.4). This hook is particularly significant as it is not only the only silver belt hook excavated in his tomb, but it is also the only astrology related one. This suggests that astrology may have been an influential, if not somewhat very important aspect, of the Nanyue King’s reign (Lam 1991: 59).
Through compiling the archaeological data and examining the ROM’s extensive belt hook collection, the validity of rulership is often portrayed through the referencing of mystical creatures or bysignifying heaven and earth through the design on these hooks (Wang 2012: 121).

The intricate design and materials used to produce such belt hooks made them a desirable personal adornment, eventually coming to represent a means of wealth and stature. Many of these designs and motifs can be seen in later dynasties, such as the Tang (618 - 906) and Song (960 - 1279) dynasties (Gu and Li 2013: 62), but little archaeological evidence exists from this time. Belt hooks were eventually replaced with belt plaques and buckles, leaving belt hooks to become a sort of a collector’s item. Jade pieces in particular, were the most favourable amongst collectors, such as Li Gonglin, a civil official and painter who was known for collecting them (Wilson 2004: 33). Since the Tang dynasty, jade carvings of dragons became popular and were usually enhanced with an abstract or cloud-like backdrop (Gu and Li 2013: 123). Jade carvings during the Song dynasty contain realistic human figurines and naturalistic motifs, such as plants and flowers. These design motifs drew the attention of Chinese artisans during the Tang and the Song dynasties and continued to do so during the Ming (1368 - 1644) and the Qing (1644 - 1912).
The use of belt hooks, primarily jade belt hooks, began to regain its popularity during the Ming dynasty. This is supported by the amount of belt hooks unearthed in burial sites. In the burial tomb of the Ming dynasty emperor Wanli (1579 - 1620), five belt hooks were unearthed, ranging in material from jade to wood (Wang 2002: 22). Production of belt hooks continued to spread and jade was increasingly used by emperors and empresses, noble families, and state officials. Popular motifs seen on numerous jade articles during the Qing dynasty, such as floral patterns, geometric designs, animals, and landscapes, were also depicted on belt hooks (Gu and Li 2013: 76). One characteristic of jade belt hooks produced during this time is that the carving of the design on the body is raised to be almost parallel to the hook (Wilson 2004: 33). During the Qianlong reign (1736 - 1795), dragon motifs and open-work carving were most common characteristics of jade, and were also reflected on belt hooks during this time.

3.3 Archaeological Data

A key element of this chapter is to build upon Wang’s list of belt hooks discovered and to provide an updated version (see Appendix A) of the chart he compiled to now include recent excavations and information, such as belt hooks excavated in the 1990s and early 2000s. The primary sources used for this section are the academic archaeology journals Archaeology 考古, Archaeology and Cultural Relics 考古与文物, and Acta Archaeologica Sinica 考古学报. These peer-reviewed journals are the pioneer publications on new archaeological discoveries, analysis, and research in China. Appendix A includes the time period of the excavated site, site name and location, number of belt hooks unearthed, belt hook type, material, measurements, description, and images or drawings.

From the data complied, jade and iron belt hooks are less prevalent than bronze. Typically, jade belt hooks are excavated in the tombs of high ranking officials. For example, thirteen belt hooks were unearthed at Zhijiagou, an excavation site in Lantian county, Shaanxi province. The tomb belongs to an elite official, possibly related to members of the Han royal family (Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Archaeology 2013). Another three belt hooks were excavated from the tomb of another high ranking official at Maituo, Wushan, part of the
Chongqing municipality in the Sichuan province (Chongqing Municipal Bureau of Culture 2005). Belt hooks were also unearthed in the tomb of Liu Fei, a feudatory king of the Jiangdu Kingdom during the Western Han dynasty.

From the data gathered in this chapter, contrary to the earlier hypothesis that belt hooks were exclusive to the elite in the Western Han dynasty, belt hooks were also excavated in the tombs of lower-ranking officials, but were typically not made of jade. For instance, a bronze belt hook was unearthed in a low ranking official’s tomb at Ma’anling, Guigang, in the Guangxi province. The occupant of this tomb was believed to be a vice magistrate during the Late Western Han dynasty (Guangxi Institute of Cultural Relics Protection and Archaeology and Guigang Museum 2014). Another bronze belt hook was excavated from a storage building site by the Qianhe River at Changqing in Fengxiang County, Shaanxi province. This suggests that belt hooks were also common accessories worn by people in the military (Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Archaeology 2005). Many burial tombs dating to the Han dynasty also contained belt hooks that are plain and minimal in design. As these tombs are believed to belong to commoners (Xinxiang Municipal Archaeological Team 2012), this further suggests that the material and design of a belt hook may indicate a person’s status and wealth.
Chapter 4

The Belt Hook Collection at the Royal Ontario Museum: A Preliminary Survey

4.1 Introduction

The Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) is one of the largest world cultures and natural history museums in North America and is an excellent resource for the study of archaeology, art history, and ancient civilization. The museum is home to approximately six million artifacts, contained within thirty galleries, seven of which are devoted to East Asia. There are more than fifty thousand objects within the seven galleries of the East Asian collection, well known for its diversity, and variety of Chinese objects collected by a museum outside of China (Shen 2014: 246). Five of its seven East Asian galleries are devoted to China, showcasing a range of artifacts from the immense wall murals in the Bishop White Gallery of Chinese Temple Art, to the Chinese architectural gallery, host to the largest Chinese architectural artifacts outside of China. There is also the Matthews Family Court of Chinese Sculptures and the Herman Herzog Levy Gallery, which display a wealth of collection of ancient Chinese sculptures, paintings, textiles, and calligraphy (Shen 2014: 246). The main collection of Chinese artifacts can be found in the Joey and Toby Tanenbaum Gallery of China, formerly the T.T. Tsui Gallery. The Chinese
collection, both on display and in storage, reflect the long and complex history of Chinese culture and civilization.

4.2 History of Collecting

There are two hundred and fifty-seven belt hooks in the ROM’s collection. Bronze belt hooks comprise the majority of the collection, a total of two hundred and twenty-six, with jade, iron and bone, making up the rest, seventeen, twelve, and two respectively. Three major contributors of the Chinese collection, George Crofts (1871–1925), Bishop William Charles White (1873–1960), and James Mellon Menzies (1885–1957), contributed greatly to the belt hook collection (Shen 2014: 247). Prior to these three major contributors, other prominent figures such as Sir. Robert Ludwig Mond and Sir. Edmund Walker made contributions to the collection.

Currently, twenty-four belt hooks reside in the George Crofts collection. George Crofts, a successful English fur trader in Tianjin, China in 1896, was a passionate collector of Chinese antiquities. In 1918, Crofts stayed in Toronto before making his way to London. During his stay, he saw a promotional postcard made by Charles T. Currelly, the founding director of the Royal Ontario Museum. Depicted on the postcard was the ROM’s Luohan sculpture (now displayed in the centre of Matthews Family Court of Chinese Sculptures), which was similar to one that he had previously owned. Being an avid collector of Chinese antiquities, Crofts wanted to work with Currelly and be able to sell artifacts to the ROM that he would later acquire. Currelly made his best effort to ensure sufficient funds were available for the fine pieces Crofts would bring to the museum (Shen 2014: 250-251). As a successful fur trader in Tianjin, Crofts was able to store many of the artefacts in his warehouse for packing and shipping to Toronto. After his death, the George Crofts Collection was established to honour the contribution Crofts made to the museum.

The majority of belt hooks in the ROM’s collection were collected by Bishop William Charles White, the first missionary to visit Honan (Henan) province. His love for collecting ancient artefacts was ignited by his first encounter with Currelly. White was born in Ivy Bridge, Devonshire, in August 1873, and later emigrated to Canada in 1882 (Walmsley 1974: 8). White and his wife arrived in Kaifeng, Honan (Henan) in March 1910 (Walmsley 1974: 99). He had
great interest in ancient Chinese civilization and he was always searching for the “rare, the mysterious and the beautiful in the fields of Chinese culture, archaeology, and religion” (Walmsley 1974: 56). It was said that “White’s natural curiosity, coupled with his serious interest in the culture and customs of the Chinese people, had led him to study the country’s early history” (Walmsley 1974: 138). During the twenty years of his stay in China, White met Dr. John Ferguson, a leading authority on Chinese art who had vast experience in the collecting of Chinese artefacts (Walmsley 1974: 139). Dr. Ferguson shared many of his experiences and knowledge on Chinese art collecting and archaeological research with White. Also, White’s relation with Rev. James M. Menzies, a Canadian presbyterian missionary stationed at Anyang, provided White with the knowledge of collecting (Walmsley 1974: 138). White eventually became the main source for collecting Chinese antiquities in China for the ROM, learning the fundamentals of archaeology from Currelly to aid in his collecting (Walmsley 1974: 141). In 1924, White arrived in Kaifeng, not as a missionary as he had done before, but as a collector for the ROM (Walmsley 1974: 143). White “confronted with Chinese religion and philosophy, and the undeniable truths within such ‘pagan’ beliefs, developed a fascinated interest in Chinese archaeology” (Walmsley 1974: 141). Through his work and contribution to collecting for the museum, there may have been times that his love for Chinese archaeology came to even surpass his interest in religion (Walmsley 1974: 141).

White was primarily interested in pre-Christian Chinese bronze and other artefacts that he, or Currelly, “believed significant for completing historical sequences” (Walmsley 1974: 145). As a collector for the museum, one of White’s ambition was to “interpret the East to the West” (Walmsley 1974: 142). During 1924 to 1937 White collected for the ROM and sent back thousands of artefacts. Within a period of one year, three consignments arrived and one contained one hundred and seventy artefacts (Walmsley 1974: 144). Many of the objects he collected were daily life tools, ritual vessels, and models of houses and husbandries. To White, “each object held within it some key to clarify another segment of early Chinese history” (Walmsley 1974: 146). The collection also consisted of items from noble families and items such as “porcelain headrests used to protect the elaborate hair-dos of men and women when sleeping, carved bone hairpins, and belt hooks often delicately inlaid with gold, silver and turquoise” (Walmsley 1974: 23).
In addition, some of the artefacts White purchased over the years were for the purpose of preservation.

James M. Menzies, a great advisor to Bishop White, educated him on collecting for the museum. Menzies was born in Clinton, Ontario, and served as a Presbyterian missionary in Honan (Henan), China in 1910 (Shen 2014: 254). During his stay, in Anyang, there was a discovery of oracle bones related to the history of the Shang dynasty (1600 - 1050 BC). Menzies was extremely fascinated with this discovery and later devoted his life to the study of oracle bones, along with other Chinese artifacts, mainly bronze weapons. As an avid collector of Chinese oracle bones, Menzies published his first book on the subject in 1917, and was the first Western scholar to contribute on this particular topic through his collection of oracle bones, which is one of the most extensive and well known outside of China (Shen 2014: 255).

Menzies returned to Toronto in 1936 from Honan (Henan). At this point, there were already more than fifty thousand objects in his collection, thirty thousand of which currently reside in the Shandong Provincial Museum. From 1936 to 1941, Menzies worked as assistant curator at the museum. In 1947, six crates of artifacts, packed away by Menzies for storage, were shipped to Toronto without his knowledge by a colleague who thought these were Menzies’ personal belongings. After his death, Menzies’ family donated this entire collection of more than six thousand objects to the ROM. This is the largest single gift of Chinese artifacts the ROM has ever received. Within these objects, more than five thousand were oracle bones. There are nineteen belt hooks in the James M. Menzies Collection.

By 1960, the ROM’s Chinese antiquities collection had grown to more than thirty-five thousand objects, making it one of the largest Chinese art collections outside of China. What makes the ROM collection so unique is that the objects came to the museum through the hands of collectors who understood exactly the quality of artifacts needed to do research at a premier museum and to educate the Western world about what was then, an unfamiliar ancient civilization. In addition to the Crofts, White, and Menzies belt hook collection, the rest of the ROM’s collection is comprised by the contributions of Sir Edmund Walker, G. F. Lawrence, Dr. Herman Herzog Levy, Dr. Elie Brorski, and Miss Violet Stewart.
4.3 Type

The typology of belt hooks can be broken down into eight types according to Wang Renxiang. Each type is represented in the ROM’s extensive collection of two hundred and fifty-seven belt hooks and I have organized and grouped them accordingly. As discussed in the previous chapter, the type is determined by the shape and design of the body of the belt hook. There are seven distinct types, with the eighth being abstract or irregular in shape. Table 4.1 illustrates an overview of the number of belt hooks in each type, and is further classified by material.

Table 4.1 Number of belt hooks in the ROM’s collection by type and material

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Bone</th>
<th>Bronze</th>
<th>Iron</th>
<th>Jade</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I - Bird Shaped</td>
<td></td>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II - Feline or Monster Mask Shaped</td>
<td></td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III - Shield Shaped</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV - Stick Shaped</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V - Pipa Shaped</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI - Rectangular Shaped</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII - Mammal Shaped</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIII - Irregular or Abstract Shaped</td>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Type I - Bird Shaped

Of the two hundred and fifty-seven belt hooks, nineteen are of type I. There are two subtypes, one with the body of the hook in the shape of a wing, and the other is where the entire hook takes the shape of a bird with a large circular back stud. All of the belt hooks in this type are bronze, sixteen of which date from the Warring States period to the Western Han dynasty, with only one dating to the Qing dynasty. Figure 4.1 (925.85.131) is an example of the first subtype, where it is in the form of a stylized bird with a flared tail and round convex body. It also has a round tapered neck, ending in a simple bird shaped head.

Figure 4.1: A type I, first subtype, a bronze belt hook with the body in the shape of a stylized bird (925.85.131, ROM collection)
with a flat circular back stud. Another example of this subtype is figure 4.2 (928.12.14), which is in the form of a stylized bird where wings clearly form the body of the hook. This subtype of type I is commonly seen in the Warring States period, but it is also reflected in the Qing dynasty (figure 4.3). None of the second subtype belt hooks in the ROM’s collection date earlier than the Western Han period. Figure 4.4 (928.12.25) is a typical example of this subtype, where the hook is shaped entirely in the form of a small bird with an elongated neck turned to face its tail, and the body of the hook is situated on a large circular back stud.

**Type II - Feline or Monster Mask Shaped**

There are a total of twenty-one type II belt hooks,
all of which date between the Eastern Zhou and Western Han dynasties. Differentiating from type VII, where the body of the hook is in the shape of an entire animal, type II comprises of animal specific features or a monster mask. Fox and elephant-like creatures are commonly found in type II, each of which have distinct and recognizable features. There are a total of four fox-like and four elephant-like belt hooks in the ROM’s collection. Figure 4.5 (928.12.71) is an example of a typical fox-like belt hook with almond shaped eyes and pointed ears. The typical elephant-like creature has elongated ears where the belt hook’s head and neck resemble the trunk of the elephant. For instance, figure 4.6 (934.17.249) resembles an elephant’s head with large ears and gauges for possible inlay, such as pearls, in each eye socket. The stud at the back is flat and circular. There are also some belt hooks in this type that possess well defined creature-like features. As seen in figure 4.7 (932.16.223), the body of the hook is in the form of an animal head with large horns, small ears, oval eyes, and a large snout. The earliest of these mammal and monster mask belt hooks in the ROM’s collection belong to the Warring States period.

Type III - Shield Shaped

Thirteen of the belt hooks in the ROM’s collection could be classified as type III, which
feature five iron belt hooks with gold inlay. As previously mentioned, the dating of these iron belt hooks is quite difficult due to the level of erosion. The rest of the belt hooks in this category are all bronze and date to the Eastern Zhou dynasty, specifically the Warring States period. Figure 4.8 (921.60.5) is a belt hook with a simple animal shaped head with a convex shield shaped body, and a tapered neck with three groves. The shape of this belt hook is representative of belt hooks of this type, as is also the case in figure 4.9 (921.60.8). The body is also typically plain with minimal design. There are, however, belt hooks with more elaborate decoration on the body and the neck, such as in figure 4.10 (928.12.77). Here, the scrolling designs and flat incised lines suggest they were perhaps once inlaid.

**Type IV - Stick Shaped**

There are thirty-one type IV belt hooks, more than half that date between the Warring States period and the Western Han dynasty. Twenty-nine are bronze, with the remaining two bone with dates unknown. Figure 4.11 (925.85.42), with the head of the hook resembling a creature, has a round tubular body with minimal to no design and a circular back stud near the centre of the hook. Similarly, figure 4.12 (929.11.200) is of a Western Han belt hook with strong facial features of a feline and a large back stud of tiered circles. There are also belt hooks from this type that are full of intricate details, such as the belt hook in figure 4.13 (930.21.213), which has a unique stick shaped body with a split down the middle of the hook forming two more parallel tubular shapes. From the surface of the belt hook, various depressions can be observed...
and perhaps there were once turquoise and gold inlay, such as those seen in figure 4.14 (931.13.320).

_Type V - Pipa Shaped_

This is the most extensive type in the ROM’s collection, comprising of a total of ninety-nine belt hooks. More than half date to before the Han dynasty, twelve date between the Ming to Qing dynasties, and only one dating to the Tang dynasty. There are eighty-nine bronze belt hooks of this type, with only five made of jade and five of iron. The five jade belt hooks are all similar in design. Each hook resembles either the head of feline, or that of a bird, while the body is either polished to a smooth finish with no carving, such as in figure 4.15 (925.85.5), or where the body is carved with the vining of a flower spiralling around the mid section, as in figure 4.16 (922.20.288). The five iron belt hooks show a great level of erosion and thus no precise dating
can be determined. However, one trait common to all iron belt hooks in this type, is the gold inlay left on the surface.

There are largely two variations of bronze belt hooks in type V. One consists of a narrow tapered body, and the other consists of a wide tapered body. An example of the first variation can be seen on the belt hook in figure 4.17 (934.17.254), which dates to the Spring and Autumn period. The centre of the body is decorated with three raised diamond and floral shaped groves that line up vertically along the centre of the body. The belt hook is inlaid with gold, silver, and turquoise, and the back of the hook is decorated with phoenix-like creatures. Even the circular back stud is decorated with a similar swirl and dotted design that is repeated throughout the entire belt hook. There are also belt hooks with similar designs but with no indentations, such as in figure 4.18 (929.11.181).

An example of the second variation can be seen in figure 4.19 (925.85.4). The belt hook has an oval tapered body and is decorated with five clear, rectangular indentations. The space between these indentations is inlaid with silver and gold, as well as decorated with repeated swirling patterns. The back stud is circular and is near the bottom of the hook. Similar decorative designs can be further observed on more belt hooks in this type from the Warring States period, such as in figure 4.20 (925.85.24), where the belt hook has an oval tapered body that consists of rectangular indentations.
Within each rectangle, it is further decorated with geometrical shapes. The rest of the body surface is again decorated with repeated spirals.

Type V belt hooks from later periods differed little in design and form from those of the Eastern Zhou period. For example, the Western Han belt hook in figure 4.21 (925.85.32) is consistent with the first variation of type V as it has a narrow oval body with a simple creature-like head. In general, type V belt hooks from the Western Han period contain more simplistic
designs than those from earlier periods. Later belt hooks of this type possess similar decorative motifs. For example, the belt hook in figure 4.22 (960.234.382) has similar geometric incisions and spirals that are visible. Its circular back stud is also decorated with similar spirals on the body. And again in figure 4.23 (960X289.20), the familiar diamond shaped indentations are influenced by earlier designs of belt hooks.

**Type VI - Rectangular Shaped**

There are a total of sixteen belt hooks of this type, nine bronze, six jade, and one iron. The nine bronze belt hooks all date before the Western Han dynasty. The six jade belt hooks date between the Eastern Zhou and the Western Han dynasties, while the date of the only iron belt hook in this type is unknown. All six jade belt hooks have similar decorative motifs, and all have minimal to no design with the head of the hook being creature-like. For example, in figure 4.24 (931.13.230), the belt hook lacks the intricate designs commonly featured on jade belt hooks from the Qing dynasty, and simply has two raised square studs at the centre of the body and two square studs with two transversely-fluted bands.

Figure 4.25 (925.85.53) is an example of the bronze belt hooks of this type that have a simple design. It has a flat and rectangular body, incised with geometric shallow lines, and an elongated neck with the head of the hook resembling a bird. From observing the bronze belt hooks in this type, a notable element that is unique to this type is that these belt hooks typically have decoration at both the top and
the bottom of the rectangular body. One such example from the Warring States period can be seen in figure 4.26 (930.21.43), where the rectangular body is carved with animalistic features at either end with well defined and strong facial features. And again in figure 4.27 (931.13.113), the slightly arched rectangular body is decorated with fox-like features, such as pointed ears and almond-shape eyes at either end.

**Type VII - Mammal Shaped**

Twenty-nine belt hooks in the ROM’s collection could be classified as type VII, all of which the entire body of the belt hook is in the shape of a creature or mammal. Five jade and twenty-four bronze belt hooks comprise this type, with no iron belt hooks. All five jade belt hooks are similar in design, as seen in figure 4.28 (922.20.117), where the head of the hook resembles a dragon with projecting
eyes, ears, tusks, and horns. The body of the hook is another crawling dragon carved in openwork relief with horns and a long flowing mane. The earliest belt hook of this design dates to the Ming dynasty and was also prevalent during the Qing dynasty. The rest of twenty-four belt hooks, made of bronze, date between the Eastern Zhou and Western Han dynasties. These belt hooks showcase a wide range of mammal shapes, such as tigers, serpents, rabbits, monkeys, and mystical looking creatures.

*Type VIII - Irregular or Abstract Shaped*

There are a total of twenty-nine belt hooks, all bronze, where the shape of the hook fits into none of the types mentioned previously. For example, in figure 4.29 (925.85.18) the bronze belt hook features a square body with rounded edges. It has a long neck and the head of the hook resembles a bird. There are also two human forms, figure 4.30 (930.21.193) and figure 4.31 (918.21.929). The former is in the shape of a human hand grasping the long curling tail of a creature, and the latter depicts a person riding a horse. Another, more abstract design, can be seen in figure 4.32 (925.85.21). Its rounded body is decorated with spirals forming a ‘C’ shape. Five belt hooks exist only as fragments and were
excluded from the previously mentioned types, but are now included here. The fragments are: 925.26.349, 925.85.188, 925.85.248, 960.234.453, and 977X38.4.

4.4 Material

The majority of belt hooks in the ROM’s collection are bronze, occasionally inlaid with silver, gold, and turquoise. Of the two hundred and twenty-six bronze belt hooks, there are nineteen type I, twenty-one type II, eight type III, twenty-eight type IV, eighty-nine type V, nine type VI, twenty-four type VII, with the remaining twenty-eight type VIII. The most prevalent shape of the bronze belt hooks belong to type V, pipa shaped, followed by type IV, stick shaped, with type I and type VII, bird and animal shaped respectively, also being extensive.

There are a total of seventeen jade belt hooks, six of which are of openwork design with the head of the hook resembling a dragon and one resembling the head of a duck, both type VII. The rest have a more traditional design with a smooth and polished body. Five are of type V, and six are of type VI. The earliest jade belt hooks in the ROM’s collection date to the Eastern Zhou dynasty. However, the majority of jade belt hooks approximately date between the Ming and the Qing dynasties.

There are a total of twelve belt hooks that are made of iron, five of type III, five of type V, and two of type VI. The dating of iron belt hooks is difficult, primarily due to the erosion of the metal. Only two of the twelve iron belt hooks have an approximate date, both dating to around the Eastern Zhou dynasty.

There are a total of two bone belt hooks in the ROM’s collection. They belong to type IV and are stick shaped. Both are intact, but the dates are unknown.

4.5 Period

The majority of belt hooks in the ROM’s collection belong to the Zhou (1045-256 BC) and Western Han (206 BC - 220 AD) dynasties, with the remaining dating to later periods such as the Ming (1368 - 1644) and the Qing (1644 - 1912) dynasties. The earliest belt hooks in the ROM’s collection date to the Eastern Zhou dynasty (771 - 221 BC), also known as the Bronze Age. This dynasty can be further divided into the Spring and Autumn period (771 - 481 BC) and the Warring States period (481 - 221 BC). Of the two hundred and nineteen bronze belt hooks,
only eighteen are from the Spring and Autumn period, with seventy-one from the Warring States period. Fifty-five date between the Zhou and the Han dynasties (400 BC to 1 AD), seventy-one date to the Western Han dynasty, and only one dates to the Eastern Han dynasty (25 - 220 AD). There is also only one that dates to the Tang dynasty (618 - 906) and is made of iron. The remaining belt hooks date between the Ming dynasty and the Republic era (1912 - present), with the most popular material, jade, being used. The exact dates of the two bone belt hooks remain uncertain, but one may date to the late Shang (1600 - 1050 BC) to early Zhou (1045-256 BC)

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Warring States Period (481 - 221 BC)</td>
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<td>Eastern Zhou Dynasty to Western Han Dynasty (400 BC - 1AD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Han Dynasty (206 BC - 220 AD)</td>
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<td>Tang Dynasty (618 - 906)</td>
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<td>Song Dynasty (960 - 1279)</td>
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<td>Ming Dynasty (1368-1644)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qing Dynasty (1644-1912)</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

dynasties as it is in the Menzies’ collection.

4.6 Summary

A key component of this thesis was the cataloguing of belt hooks in the ROM’s collection into workable types, as outlined by Wang. Vast in both quantity and variety, two hundred and fifty-seven belt hooks comprise the ROM’s collection and is thus a suitable sample size for applying Wang’s typology. Coupling Wang’s survey on the excavation of belt hooks, with my compilation of more recently excavated belt hooks (see Appendix A), a more rounded and in-depth analysis of belt hooks in Ancient China can be achieved.
Appendix B is a catalogue of each belt hook mentioned in this chapter, many of which were collected by Bishop White, a significant contributor of Chinese antiquities for the ROM. For White, he

“aimed at building a collection that would enable the average Canadian to gain a knowledge of the life of the Chinese people and to appreciate with understanding the story of their remarkable civilization - ‘to catch an intimate glimpse of the common life of China over a period of 4,000 years’” (Walmsley 1974: 146).

White’s goal was certainly realized through the extensive number and variety of belt hooks he collected.
Chapter 5

Conclusion

5.1 Interpretations

The ultimate goal of this thesis is to highlight the cultural significance and value of belt hooks in ancient China, a matter which has been largely overlooked. As illustrated throughout, belt hooks can be seen anywhere from paintings (figure 5.1 and figure 5.2) and Chinese Classics, to even around the bellies of the famous Terracotta Army of the Qin dynasty (221 - 206 BC). These garment hooks, which existed long before belt buckles and plaques, were first discovered during the Neolithic period, specifically the Liangzhu culture (3200 - 2400 BC). Even from these early belt hooks, one can infer that a significant level of technical ability and craftsmanship was present, as evident by the drilling, carving, and cutting work that would be needed to produce such belt hooks (see figure 1.1).

The use of belt hooks gained popularity during the Eastern Zhou dynasty (771 - 221 BC) and became almost commonplace during the Western Han dynasty (206 BC - 220 AD). The advancements made in bronze casting and gilding during these periods are also reflected on these
garment hooks, as detailed in chapter four. The significant increase in the quantity of belt hooks excavated from these periods can be interpreted as the likely result of their increased use and popularity. A remarkable number of one hundred and forty-nine bronze belt hooks and nine jade belt hooks were unearthed at tomb No. 1 in the mausoleum precinct of the Jiangdu Feudatory Kingdom, Xuyi county, Jiangsu province (GZARAT and Hepu County Museum 2013). Another forty-six bronze belt hooks were excavated at a Warring States period burial tomb in Wanggou, Changdao county, Shandong province (Yantai Municipal CPAM 1993).

As belt hooks are not an essential part of one’s everyday wear, they play an important role in revealing one’s aesthetic value and taste,
personality, and even one’s status. As precious materials and elaborate designs are common traits of personal ornaments of people of high status and wealth, the same can hold true for belt hooks. One such example is that of a jade belt hook that was unearthed in the burial tomb of a senior civil official dating to the Warring States period. The jade is polished to a high lustre and the head of the hook is carved to resemble that of a dragon’s head with protruding features. The similarity between this and the one excavated at the Nanyue King’s tomb helps to further emphasize the notion that one’s power and authority may be reflected through belt hooks (Anhui Provincial Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology 2012).

One component of this thesis was to build upon Wang Renxiang’s findings of excavated belt hooks by compiling a more current and thorough list via peer-reviewed journals. Wang’s list, which contained little to no illustrated figures, consisted only of excavations up to the 1980s. The list I have compiled to supplement his findings includes publications that date to 2014. Furthermore, I have also incorporated detailed descriptions and images where possible in order to allow for a better understanding of the development, typology, and carving techniques.

Tangible objects from the past enable inferences and deductions to be made about their makers and users. When it comes to belt hooks, the carving techniques and creativity of design exhibited on the Terracotta Army for instance, perhaps exemplify the styles that were most popular during this period. According to Clunas,

“the aim was not purely aesthetic, as these figure were never intended for contemplation by any living eye. The verisimilitude which delights today was sought in the interests of effectiveness of the figures’ basic function; the more lifelike they were, the better they fulfilled the role of guarding their master in the nether world” (Clunas 1997: 32).

The study of belt hooks as tangible objects is an effective methodological tool to study past civilizations and ancient history. Originally, belt hooks had a simple utilitarian purpose, to fasten trousers and long robes. As belt hooks gained great popularity in the Eastern Zhou dynasty, they no longer were simply a garment fastener, but were also used to hang swords and knives, or used for attaching personal pendants or ornaments, such as bronze mirrors (Wang 1982: 79). From my research, I have concluded that belt hooks did not only belong to the elite,
but were prevalently used people of all stature, from lower officials to commoners, and sometimes even women as illustrated in chapter three.

The social, cultural, and political importance of belt hooks in ancient China can be further perceived through Chinese classic literature. Zhuangzi references belt hooks as an analogy to illustrate philosophical concepts and ideals regarding the state and the virtue of the people (The Complete Works of Zhuangzi, Outer chapter, section 10).

5.2 Suggestions for Future Research

The initial use of belt hooks was purely for the fastening of garments. Therefore, connections between belt hooks and clothing cannot be overlooked. This connection is difficult to explore in detail due to the lack of clothing from before the Western Han dynasty that survives today. Future research on Chinese clothing, whether it be court dresses, ceremonial robes or funerary clothing, could provide great insight on how belt hooks were used.

As a great deal of belt hooks in the ROM’s collection do not fit perfectly into the first seven types coined by Wang, and are not always irregular in shape or in human form, there are perhaps more than eight types of belt hooks. A more in-depth analysis of Wang’s typology, with the inclusion of the ROM’s extensive collection that I outlined in chapter four, may be able to yield such additional typology.

Within the span of less than two centuries, the belt hook became a prominent clothing accessory. During the Western Han dynasty, bronze became the primary material of belt hooks produced. The design and decorative motif on these garment hooks, such as type II, feline or monster mask, are similar to those observed on larger bronze ritual vessels. A comparative study of the ornamental designs on these bronze belt hooks to that of the larger ritual vessels, would provide further insight into the symbolic meaning of belt hooks, but lies outside the scope of this thesis.

5.3 A Final Thought

Belt hooks have been a part of people’s daily lives in China for more than five millennia. The craftsmanship and the artisanship, from the carving technique used to the gliding of gold and silver, are of such superb quality that they would be able to hold their own against other artifacts
from around the world. Not only are belt hooks able to provide a glimpse into the life of its wearer and the artisans that made them, much can be inferred about such personal ornaments as ornaments are “a delight to the eye, was and still is, therefore, a tool to allow objects to be linked to past and present, to one patron or workshop or another, to high status or to a lower one, and to one part of a ritual performance or another” (Rawson 2009: 30). They can reveal further insights on the social and cultural changes that took place in ancient China. For some, however, it may just simply be…art around the belly.
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<td>Body in the shape of a large circular disk</td>
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<td>Length 8.1cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook in the shape of a bird with a large beak and protruding eyes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Warring States</td>
<td>Guijing cemetery in Fengjie county, Chongqing municipality, Sichuan province</td>
<td>VII - Mammal shaped</td>
<td>Length 4.8cm, width 9cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Body of the hook resembles an elephant’s head with large ears</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2011 Issue 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period</td>
<td></td>
<td>IV - Stick shaped</td>
<td>Length 10.8cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook missing</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2011 Issue 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>IV - Stick shaped</td>
<td>Length 8cm, width 1cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook missing</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2011 Issue 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 7.2cm, width 0.6-1.3cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook missing</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2011 Issue 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>I - Bird shaped</td>
<td>Remaining length 3cm, width 0.4-2.3cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook missing</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2011 Issue 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Period</td>
<td>Site name and Location</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Image</td>
<td>Source</td>
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<tr>
<td>Warring States</td>
<td>The tombs of Lianhuachi cemetery (M12) in Danjiangkou city, Hubei province (total of 12 bronze belt hooks excavated, only 9 shown)</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 14.7cm, width 1.3-3.5cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook missing</td>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2011 Issue 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period</td>
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<tr>
<td>Warring States</td>
<td>The tombs of Lianhuachi cemetery (M15) in Danjiangkou city, Hubei province (total of 12 bronze belt hooks excavated, only 9 shown)</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 3.6cm, width 1.3cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook missing</td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2011 Issue 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Warring States</td>
<td>The tombs of Lianhuachi cemetery (M25) in Danjiangkou city, Hubei province (total of 12 bronze belt hooks excavated, only 9 shown)</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 3.24cm, width 0.73-1.07cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a creature with a large circular stud</td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2011 Issue 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Warring States</td>
<td>The tombs of Lianhuachi cemetery (M21) in Danjiangkou city, Hubei province (total of 12 bronze belt hooks excavated, only 9 shown)</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 4.13cm width 0.37-1.57cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Body of the hook in the shape of a rabbit</td>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2011 Issue 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Warring States</td>
<td>The tombs of Lianhuachi cemetery (M1) in Danjiangkou city, Hubei province (total of 12 bronze belt hooks excavated, only 9 shown)</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 7.5cm, width 4.9cm</td>
<td>Iron</td>
<td>Head of the hook missing</td>
<td><img src="image5.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2011 Issue 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period</td>
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<td>Time Period</td>
<td>Site name and Location</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Image</td>
<td>Source</td>
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<tr>
<td>Warring States Period</td>
<td>Huangzhang site in Anyang city, Henan province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 4.7cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a creature with a circular back stud near the bottom</td>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2011 Issue 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warring States Period</td>
<td>Huangzhang site in Anyang city, Henan province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 6.1cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a creature with a circular back stud near the bottom</td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2011 Issue 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warring States Period</td>
<td>Huangzhang site in Anyang city, Henan province</td>
<td>VI - Rectangular shaped</td>
<td>Length 20.4cm</td>
<td>Iron</td>
<td>Flat and rectangular</td>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2011 Issue 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warring States Period</td>
<td>Guojia-cun in Linzi district (M4), Zibo city, Shandong province</td>
<td>I - Bird shaped</td>
<td>Length 5.9cm, width 2.8cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Hook in the shape of a stylized bird</td>
<td><img src="image4" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2007 Issue 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warring States Period</td>
<td>The burials Guojia village (M4), Linzi District, Zibo city, Shandong province (total of 8 bronze belt hooks excavated, only 2 shown)</td>
<td>VI - Rectangular shaped</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td><img src="image5" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2010 Issue 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Period</td>
<td>Site name and Location</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Image</td>
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<tr>
<td>Warring States Period</td>
<td>The burials Guojia village (M4), Linzi District, Zibo city, Shandong province (total of 8 bronze belt hooks excavated, only 2 shown)</td>
<td>I - Bird shaped</td>
<td>Length 3.6cm, width 1.2cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Hook in the shape of a stylized bird</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2010 Issue 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warring States Period</td>
<td>The burials Guojia village (M5), Linzi District, Zibo city, Shandong province (total of 8 bronze belt hooks excavated, only 2 shown)</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 3.9cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2010 Issue 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warring States Period</td>
<td>The tombs in the Caipo cemetery, Xiangfan city, Hubei province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Remaining length 4.25cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook missing</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2005 Issue 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warring States Period</td>
<td>Guoyuan of Xihu town in Yangzhou city, Jiangsu province</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Length 20.5cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>“S” shaped body with malachite inlay</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2002 Issue 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warring States Period</td>
<td>Chuwangcheng site in Yunmeng, Hubei province (total of 11 bronze belt hooks excavated, only 5 shown)</td>
<td>VI - Rectangular shaped</td>
<td>Remaining length 6.1cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Missing half of the body</td>
<td></td>
<td>Acta Archaeologica Sinica 2012 Issue 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Period</td>
<td>Site name and Location</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Image</td>
<td>Source</td>
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<tr>
<td>Warring States Period</td>
<td>Chuwangcheng site in Yunmeng, Hubei province (total of 11 bronze belt hooks excavated, only 5 shown)</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Remaining length 3.8cm, width 0.8cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook missing</td>
<td><img src="https://example.com/image1.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Acta Archaeologica Sinica 2012 Issue 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warring States Period</td>
<td>Chuwangcheng site in Yunmeng, Hubei province (total of 11 bronze belt hooks excavated, only 5 shown)</td>
<td>I - Bird shaped</td>
<td>Length 3.1cm, width 0.8cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Hook in the shape of a stylized bird, with a large beak</td>
<td><img src="https://example.com/image2.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Acta Archaeologica Sinica 2012 Issue 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warring States Period</td>
<td>Chuwangcheng site in Yunmeng, Hubei province (total of 11 bronze belt hooks excavated, only 5 shown)</td>
<td>I - Bird shaped</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Hook in the shape of a stylized bird, with a large beak</td>
<td><img src="https://example.com/image3.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Acta Archaeologica Sinica 2012 Issue 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warring States Period</td>
<td>Chuwangcheng site in Yunmeng, Hubei province (total of 11 bronze belt hooks excavated, only 5 shown)</td>
<td>III - Shield shaped</td>
<td>Remaining length 2.3cm, width 2cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook missing</td>
<td><img src="https://example.com/image4.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Acta Archaeologica Sinica 2012 Issue 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warring States Period</td>
<td>Ancient tombs at Maituo, Wushan, Chongqing municipality, Sichuan province</td>
<td>VII - Mammal shaped</td>
<td>Length 4.2cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Belt hook in the shape of a snake</td>
<td><img src="https://example.com/image5.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Acta Archaeologica Sinica 2005 Issue 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Period</td>
<td>Site name and Location</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Image</td>
<td>Source</td>
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<tr>
<td>Warring States</td>
<td>Ancient tombs at Maituo, Wushan, Chongqing municipality, Sichuan province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 3.8cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a duck with protruding features</td>
<td></td>
<td>Acta Archaeologica Sinica 2005 Issue 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period</td>
<td></td>
<td>I - Bird shaped</td>
<td>Length 4.2cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Hook in the shape of a stylized bird, head facing its tail</td>
<td></td>
<td>Acta Archaeologica Sinica 2005 Issue 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stone-barrowed tombs on Hanta hill, Baoxing county, Sichuan province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 23.5cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a duck with protruding eyes. Body is gilded with silver and gold</td>
<td></td>
<td>Acta Archaeologica Sinica 1999 Issue 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stone-barrowed tombs on Hanta hill, Baoxing county, Sichuan province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 10.2cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a duck with protruding eyes</td>
<td></td>
<td>Acta Archaeologica Sinica 1999 Issue 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stone-barrowed tombs on Hanta hill, Baoxing county, Sichuan province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 7.6cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a creature with protruding eyes. Body decorated with repeated geometric patterns</td>
<td></td>
<td>Acta Archaeologica Sinica 1999 Issue 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Period</td>
<td>Site name and Location</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Image</td>
<td>Source</td>
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<tr>
<td>Warring States Period</td>
<td>Stone-barrowed tombs on Hanta hill, Baoxing county, Sichuan province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 8.9cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a duck with protruding eyes</td>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Acta Archaeologica Sinica 1999 Issue 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warring States Period</td>
<td>Stone-barrowed tombs on Hanta hill, Baoxing county, Sichuan province</td>
<td>VII - Mammal shaped</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>The body of the hook resembles a coiled snake and a tiger on each side</td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Acta Archaeologica Sinica 1999 Issue 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warring States Period</td>
<td>Stone-barrowed tombs on Hanta hill, Baoxing county, Sichuan province</td>
<td>VII - Mammal shaped</td>
<td>Length 6.4cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Body of the hook resembles two fish side by side</td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Acta Archaeologica Sinica 1999 Issue 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warring States Period</td>
<td>Stone-barrowed tombs on Hanta hill, Baoxing county, Sichuan province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 4.5cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a duck with protruding eyes</td>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Acta Archaeologica Sinica 1999 Issue 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warring States period</td>
<td>Wanggou, Changdao, Shandong province (total of 46 bronze belt hooks excavated, only 11 shown)</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 15.7cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the book resembles a bird with a sharp beak</td>
<td><img src="image5.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Acta Archaeologica Sinica 1993 Issue 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Period</td>
<td>Site name and Location</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Image</td>
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<tr>
<td>Warring States Period</td>
<td>Wanggou, Changdao, Shandong province (total of 46 bronze belt hooks excavated, only 11 shown)</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 9.7cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Body decorated with repeated swirl patterns, head resembles a creature</td>
<td></td>
<td>Acta Archaeologica Sinica 1993 Issue 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warring States Period</td>
<td>Wanggou, Changdao, Shandong province (total of 46 bronze belt hooks excavated, only 11 shown)</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 6.8cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Body decorated with repeated swirl patterns, head resembles a creature</td>
<td></td>
<td>Acta Archaeologica Sinica 1993 Issue 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warring States Period</td>
<td>Wanggou, Changdao, Shandong province (total of 46 bronze belt hooks excavated, only 11 shown)</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 7.3cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Body decorated with repeated swirl patterns, head resembles a creature</td>
<td></td>
<td>Acta Archaeologica Sinica 1993 Issue 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warring States Period</td>
<td>Wanggou, Changdao, Shandong province (total of 46 bronze belt hooks excavated, only 11 shown)</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 7.5cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a creature</td>
<td></td>
<td>Acta Archaeologica Sinica 1993 Issue 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warring States Period</td>
<td>Wanggou, Changdao, Shandong province (total of 46 bronze belt hooks excavated, only 11 shown)</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 9.2cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Body decorated with repeated swirl patterns, head resembles a creature with protruding features</td>
<td></td>
<td>Acta Archaeologica Sinica 1993 Issue 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Period</td>
<td>Site name and Location</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Image</td>
<td>Source</td>
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<tr>
<td>Warring States Period</td>
<td>Wanggou, Changdao, Shandong province (total of 46 bronze belt hooks excavated, only 11 shown)</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 10.1cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a creature</td>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Acta Archaeologica Sinica 1993 Issue 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warring States Period</td>
<td>Wanggou, Changdao, Shandong province (total of 46 bronze belt hooks excavated, only 11 shown)</td>
<td>III - Shield shaped</td>
<td>Length 3.8cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a creature</td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Acta Archaeologica Sinica 1993 Issue 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warring States Period</td>
<td>Wanggou, Changdao, Shandong province (total of 46 bronze belt hooks excavated, only 11 shown)</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 3.6cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a creature</td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Acta Archaeologica Sinica 1993 Issue 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warring States Period</td>
<td>Wanggou, Changdao, Shandong province (total of 46 bronze belt hooks excavated, only 11 shown)</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 10.5cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a creature</td>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Acta Archaeologica Sinica 1993 Issue 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warring States Period</td>
<td>Wanggou, Changdao, Shandong province (total of 46 bronze belt hooks excavated, only 11 shown)</td>
<td>VIII - Irregular or abstract</td>
<td>Length 6.9cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a creature</td>
<td><img src="image5.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Acta Archaeologica Sinica 1993 Issue 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Period</td>
<td>Site name and Location</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Image</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warring States Period</td>
<td>Zhouwangling mausoleum of Xianyang</td>
<td>IV - Stick shaped</td>
<td>Length 7.5cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a creature with a large circular back stud</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology and Cultural Relics 2011 Issue 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Warring States Period</td>
<td>Tomb M585 of Bailuzhou in Lu’an city, Anhui province</td>
<td>VI - Rectangular shaped</td>
<td>Length 9.5cm, width 1.2-1.4cm</td>
<td>Jade</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a dragon with protruding horns, eyes, and mouth with a rectangular back stud</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2012 Issue 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Warring States Period</td>
<td>Jinlianshan cemetery (M166: 6) in Chengjiang county, Yunnan province</td>
<td>I - Bird shaped</td>
<td>Length 1.9cm, width 1.1cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Hook in the shape of a stylized bird, head facing its tail</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2011 Issue 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Warring States Period</td>
<td>Jinlianshan cemetery (M166: 18) in Chengjiang county, Yunnan province</td>
<td>I - Bird shaped</td>
<td>Length 3cm, width 1.3cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Hook in the shape of a stylized bird, head facing its tail</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2011 Issue 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Warring States Period</td>
<td>Jinlianshan cemetery (M166: 19) in Chengjiang county, Yunnan province</td>
<td>I - Bird shaped</td>
<td>Length 6.7cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a creature</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2011 Issue 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Period</td>
<td>Site name and Location</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Image</td>
<td>Source</td>
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<tr>
<td>Late Warring States Period</td>
<td>Siqi cemetery (M2303) in Houma city, Shanxi province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 5.5cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a creature</td>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2002 Issue 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Warring States Period</td>
<td>Siqi cemetery (M2039) in Houma city, Shanxi province</td>
<td>IV - Stick shaped</td>
<td>Length 11cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a snake</td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2002 Issue 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Warring States Period</td>
<td>Siqi cemetery (M2184) in Houma city, Shanxi province</td>
<td>III - Shield shaped</td>
<td>Length 6.2cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a creature</td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2002 Issue 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Warring States Period</td>
<td>Siqi cemetery (M2125) in Houma city, Shanxi province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 7.6cm, width 1.6cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a creature</td>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2002 Issue 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Warring States Period</td>
<td>Siqi cemetery (M1399) in Houma city, Shanxi province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 10.9cm, width 1.1cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a creature</td>
<td><img src="image5.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2002 Issue 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Period</td>
<td>Site name and Location</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Image</td>
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<tr>
<td>Late Warring States Period</td>
<td>The no.102 Han tomb at Yaozhuang, Hanjiang county, Jiangsu province</td>
<td>I - Bird shaped</td>
<td>Length 3.5cm, height 1.5cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Hook in the shape of a stylized bird, head facing its tail</td>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2000 Issue 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Warring States Period</td>
<td>The no.102 Han tomb at Yaozhuang, Hanjiang county, Jiangsu province</td>
<td>I - Bird shaped</td>
<td>Length 3.3cm, height 1.7cm</td>
<td>Jade</td>
<td>Hook in the shape of a stylized bird, head facing its tail</td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2000 Issue 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Warring States Period</td>
<td>The no.102 Han tomb at Yaozhuang, Hanjiang county, Jiangsu province</td>
<td>I - Bird shaped</td>
<td>Length 2.8cm, height 2cm</td>
<td>Jade</td>
<td>Hook in the shape of a stylized bird, head facing its tail</td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2000 Issue 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qin Dynasty</td>
<td>Yueshan, Jiangling county, Hubei province</td>
<td>VI - Rectangular shaped</td>
<td>Length 13cm</td>
<td>Jade</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a bird with a square back stud</td>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Acta Archaeologica Sinica 2000 Issue 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qin Dynasty</td>
<td>Yueshan, Jiangling county, Hubei province</td>
<td>I - Bird shaped</td>
<td>Length 3cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Hook in the shape of a stylized bird, head facing its tail</td>
<td><img src="image5.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Acta Archaeologica Sinica 2000 Issue 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Period</td>
<td>Site name and Location</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qin Dynasty</td>
<td>Yueshan, Jiangling county, Hubei province</td>
<td>IV - Stick shaped</td>
<td>Length 13.2cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a creature</td>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Acta Archaeologica Sinica 2000 Issue 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qin Dynasty</td>
<td>Yueshan, Jiangling county, Hubei province</td>
<td>IV - Stick shaped</td>
<td>Length 12.2cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a creature</td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Acta Archaeologica Sinica 2000 Issue 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qin Dynasty</td>
<td>Yueshan, Jiangling county, Hubei province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 12cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook missing, body decorated with repeated geometric lines</td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Acta Archaeologica Sinica 2000 Issue 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Shi and Han tombs in Chenggu county, Shaanxi province</td>
<td>VII - Mammal shaped</td>
<td>Length 5.4cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Animal shaped body</td>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology and Cultural Relics 1992 Issue 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Shi and Han tombs in Chenggu county, Shaanxi province</td>
<td>VIII - Irregular or abstract</td>
<td>Length 3.7cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a creature with a rounded body</td>
<td><img src="image5.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology and Cultural Relics 1992 Issue 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Period</td>
<td>Site name and Location</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Image</td>
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<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Tombs at Kongwuling in Guigang city, Guangxi province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 9.9m</td>
<td>Jade</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a creature with protruding features</td>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2013 Issue 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>The stone slab tombs (M16) at Langgengran hill in Zhenfeng county, Guizhou province</td>
<td>VIII - Irregular or abstract</td>
<td>Length 5.7cm, width 2.5cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Square body with a long neck</td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2013 Issue 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>The stone slab tombs (M4) at Langgengran hill in Zhenfeng county, Guizhou province</td>
<td>IV - Stick shaped</td>
<td>Length 5.8cm</td>
<td>Iron</td>
<td>Head of the hook missing</td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2013 Issue 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>The stone slab tombs (M38) at Langgengran hill in Zhenfeng county, Guizhou province</td>
<td>IV - Stick shaped</td>
<td>Length 8.8cm</td>
<td>Iron</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a creature</td>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2013 Issue 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>The stone slab tombs (M23) at Langgengran hill in Zhenfeng county, Guizhou province</td>
<td>IV - Stick shaped</td>
<td>Length 9.6cm</td>
<td>Iron</td>
<td>Missing one end of the hook</td>
<td><img src="image5.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2013 Issue 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Period</td>
<td>Site name and Location</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Image</td>
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<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>The stone slab tombs (M20) at Langgengran hill in Zhenfeng county, Guizhou province</td>
<td>IV - Stick shaped</td>
<td>Length 10.2cm</td>
<td>Iron</td>
<td>Head of the hook missing</td>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2013 Issue 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>The stone slab tombs (M64) at Langgengran hill in Zhenfeng county, Guizhou province</td>
<td>IV - Stick shaped</td>
<td>Length 6.6cm</td>
<td>Iron</td>
<td>Double ended hook</td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2013 Issue 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>The stone slab tombs (M2) at Langgengran hill in Zhenfeng county, Guizhou province</td>
<td>IV - Stick shaped</td>
<td>Length 8.4cm</td>
<td>Iron</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a creature</td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2013 Issue 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>The stone slab tombs (M28) at Langgengran hill in Zhenfeng county, Guizhou province</td>
<td>VIII - Irregular or abstract</td>
<td>Length 3.4cm</td>
<td>Iron</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a creature</td>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2013 Issue 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>The stone slab tombs (M14) at Langgengran hill in Zhenfeng county, Guizhou province</td>
<td>VIII - Irregular or abstract</td>
<td>Length 3.5cm</td>
<td>Iron</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a creature</td>
<td><img src="image5.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2013 Issue 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Period</td>
<td>Site name and Location</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Image</td>
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<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Tombs at Wuling village, Xinxiang city, Henan province</td>
<td>VIII - Irregular or abstract</td>
<td>Length 4.7cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Rounded body with a missing hook</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2012 Issue 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Tombs in Weishan island of Weishan county, Shandong province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a bird</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2009 Issue 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Tombs in Weishan island of Weishan county, Shandong province</td>
<td>VIII - Irregular or abstract</td>
<td>Length 4.8cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>End of the hook resembles the horn of a sheep</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2009 Issue 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Tombs in Weishan island of Weishan county, Shandong province</td>
<td>I - Bird shaped</td>
<td>Length 3.7cm</td>
<td>Iron</td>
<td>Hook in the shape of a stylized bird facing its tail</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2009 Issue 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Tomb no.2 of the Han period on Dagushan hill in Xuzhou city, Jiangsu province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 7.3cm, width 1.1cm</td>
<td>Jade</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a duck with a large beak</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2009 Issue 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Period</td>
<td>Site name and Location</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Image</td>
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<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Burial tombs at Muzhuling in Hepu county, Guangxi autonomous region</td>
<td>IV - Stick shaped</td>
<td>Length 9.9cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook missing</td>
<td><img src="Image" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2007 Issue 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Tombs in Qianxi county, Guizhou province</td>
<td>VII - Mammal shaped</td>
<td>Length 11.3cm, width 4.5cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Body of the hook resembles a tiger</td>
<td><img src="Image" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2006 Issue 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Tombs in Qianxi county, Guizhou province</td>
<td>IV - Stick shaped</td>
<td>Length 7.3cm, width 0.75cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a creature, missing back stud</td>
<td><img src="Image" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2006 Issue 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Tombs in Qianxi county, Guizhou province</td>
<td>VII - Mammal shaped</td>
<td>Length 6.6cm, width 3.3cm</td>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>Body of the hook in the shape of a tiger facing its tail</td>
<td><img src="Image" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2006 Issue 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Xiufeng-cun cemetery at Wuxia town in Wushan county, Chongqing municipality, Sichuan province</td>
<td>VII - Mammal shaped</td>
<td>Length 12.3cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a snake</td>
<td><img src="Image" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2004 Issue 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Period</td>
<td>Site name and Location</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Image</td>
<td>Source</td>
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<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Lijiaba site in Yunyang county, Chongqing municipality, Sichuan province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Remaining length 5cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a bird</td>
<td><img src="image1.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2004 Issue 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Lijiaba site in Yunyang county, Chongqing municipality, Sichuan province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Remaining length 2.9cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Flat body, missing neck and the head of the hook</td>
<td><img src="image2.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2004 Issue 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Lijiaba site in Yunyang county, Chongqing municipality, Sichuan province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Remaining length 3cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Flat body, missing neck and the head of the hook</td>
<td><img src="image3.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2004 Issue 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Lijiaba site in Yunyang county, Chongqing municipality, Sichuan province</td>
<td>VII - Mammal shaped</td>
<td>Length 3.5cm, width 2.6cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Body of the hook resembles an elephant with large ears and a large trunk as the neck and the head of the hook</td>
<td><img src="image4.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2004 Issue 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Lijiaba site in Yunyang county, Chongqing municipality, Sichuan province</td>
<td>I - Bird shaped</td>
<td>Remaining length 2.4cm, width 2.8cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Hook in the shape of a stylized bird facing its tail</td>
<td><img src="image5.jpg" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2004 Issue 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Period</td>
<td>Site name and Location</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Image</td>
<td>Source</td>
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<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Lijiaba site in Yunyang county, Chongqing municipality, Sichuan province</td>
<td>VI - Rectangular shaped</td>
<td>Remaining length 9.1cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Flat body with a medium sized back stud. Head of the hook missing</td>
<td><img src="archaeology_2004_issue_10.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2004 Issue 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Lijiaba site in Yunyang county, Chongqing municipality, Sichuan province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 6.4cm</td>
<td>Iron</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a bird</td>
<td><img src="archaeology_2004_issue_10.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2004 Issue 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Chuwangcheng site in Yunmeng, Hubei province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 6.1cm, width 1cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a goose with a medium sized back stud</td>
<td><img src="archaeology_2004_issue_10.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 2004 Issue 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Painted-pictorial-stone tomb at Chenpeng in Nanyang, Henan province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 11.4cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Animal shaped hook head with protruding eyes and ears</td>
<td><img src="acta_archaeologica_sinica_2007_issue_2.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Acta Archaeologica Sinica 2007 Issue 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Yueshan, Jiangling county, Hubei province</td>
<td>III - Shield shaped</td>
<td>Length 6.6cm, width 3.4cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a bird</td>
<td><img src="acta_archaeologica_sinica_2007_issue_2.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Acta Archaeologica Sinica 2007 Issue 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Period</td>
<td>Site name and Location</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Liangquan site in Baoji, Shaanxi province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 13.5cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a snake</td>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology and Cultural Relics 2013 Issue 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Zhijiagou site in Lantian county, Shaanxi province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 3.9cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a creature</td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology and Cultural Relics 2013 Issue 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>IV - Stick shaped</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Double faced belt hook with a high arch body</td>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology and Cultural Relics 2006 Issue 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Burial tombs at Beikang village in the Northern suburbs of Xi’an, Shaanxi province</td>
<td>VI - Rectangular shaped</td>
<td>Length 8.5cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a creature</td>
<td><img src="image4" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology and Cultural Relics 2006 Issue 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Burial tombs along the highway of Xi’an to Lintong district, Shaanxi province</td>
<td>IV - Stick shaped</td>
<td>Length 13.6cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a creature</td>
<td><img src="image5" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology and Cultural Relics 1991 Issue 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Period</td>
<td>Site name and Location</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Burial tombs along the highway of Xi’an to Lintong district, Shaanxi province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 10.4cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a creature</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology and Cultural Relics 1991 Issue 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Han Dynasty</td>
<td>The mausoleum precinct of the Jiangdu feudatory kingdom in Xuyi county, Jiangsu province</td>
<td>I - Bird shaped</td>
<td>Length 2.6cm, width 0.6cm, height 2.3cm</td>
<td>Jade</td>
<td>Hook in the shape of a bird, muted in colour with minimal design</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2014 Issue 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Han Dynasty</td>
<td>The mausoleum precinct of the Jiangdu feudatory kingdom in Xuyi county, Jiangsu province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 3.7cm, height 1.8cm</td>
<td>Gilded silver and bronze</td>
<td>Hook of the hook in the shape of a dragon</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2014 Issue 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Han Dynasty</td>
<td>The burial mound no. 2 at Haiqu in Rizhao city, Shandong province</td>
<td>IV - Stick shaped</td>
<td>Length 12.7cm, width 0.9cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Narrow body with a round back stud, animal shaped head</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2014 Issue 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Tomb no. 1 in the mausoleum precinct of the Jiangdu feudatory kingdom, Xuyi county, Jiangsu province</td>
<td>VIII - Irregular or abstract</td>
<td>Length 5.1cm, width 2.4cm</td>
<td>Jade</td>
<td>Animal shaped hook head with protruding features and a circular body</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2013 Issue 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Period</td>
<td>Site name and Location</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td>Material</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Tomb no. 1 in the mausoleum precinct of the Jiangdu feudatory kingdom, Xuyi county, Jiangsu province</td>
<td>II - Feline or monster mask</td>
<td>Length 5.3cm, width 3cm</td>
<td>Jade</td>
<td>Body of the hook resembles a creature with protruding features</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2013 Issue 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Tomb no. 1 in the mausoleum precinct of the Jiangdu feudatory kingdom, Xuyi county, Jiangsu province</td>
<td>II - Feline or monster mask</td>
<td>Length 7.3cm, width 2.2cm</td>
<td>Jade</td>
<td>The body of the hook is in the shape of a creature with protruding horns, ears, and teeth with two back studs</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2013 Issue 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Tomb no. 1 in the mausoleum precinct of the Jiangdu feudatory kingdom, Xuyi county, Jiangsu province</td>
<td>VIII - Irregular or abstract</td>
<td>Length 5.4cm, width 2.6cm</td>
<td>Jade</td>
<td>Body of the hook is in the shape of a human face</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2013 Issue 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Tomb no. 1 in the mausoleum precinct of the Jiangdu feudatory kingdom, Xuyi county, Jiangsu province</td>
<td>IV - Stick shaped</td>
<td>Length 14.8cm, width 1.3cm</td>
<td>Jade</td>
<td>Animal shaped hook head with protruding eyes and ears</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2013 Issue 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Tomb no. 1 in the mausoleum precinct of the Jiangdu feudatory kingdom, Xuyi county, Jiangsu province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 6.6cm, width 1.1cm</td>
<td>Jade</td>
<td>Simple animal style head with two back studs</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2013 Issue 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Period</td>
<td>Site name and Location</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Tomb no. 1 in the mausoleum precinct of the Jiangdu feudatory kingdom, Xuyi county, Jiangsu province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 3.5cm, width 0.7cm, height 0.7cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Simple animal style head with a medium sized square back stud</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2013 Issue 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Tomb no. 1 in the mausoleum precinct of the Jiangdu feudatory kingdom, Xuyi county, Jiangsu province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 6.7cm, width 0.8cm, height 1.2cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Narrow body with two back stud, head of the hook resembles a dragon</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2013 Issue 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Tomb no. 1 in the mausoleum precinct of the Jiangdu feudatory kingdom, Xuyi county, Jiangsu province</td>
<td>VIII - Irregular or abstract</td>
<td>Length 3.7cm, width 3.3cm, height 1.6cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Triangular shape, its body is decorated with repeated dotted designs</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2013 Issue 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Tomb no. 1 in the mausoleum precinct of the Jiangdu feudatory kingdom, Xuyi county, Jiangsu province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 5.8cm, width 2.2cm</td>
<td>Crystal</td>
<td>Simple animal style head with a medium sized circular back stud near the bottom</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2013 Issue 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Guoqi site at Daoyi town, Shenyang city, Hebei province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 5cm, width 0.9cm, height 1.1cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook missing</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2013 Issue 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Period</td>
<td>Site name and Location</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Pictorial stone tomb on Ranshan hill in Tengzhou city, Shandong province</td>
<td>VIII - Irregular or abstract</td>
<td>Length 11cm, width 1.8cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Both end of the hook is decorated with at the head of an animal</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2012 Issue 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Tomb M8 of Lianhuachi cemetery in Danjiangkou city, Hubei province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped (only one shown)</td>
<td>Length 3.75cm, width 0.2-0.9cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Simple animal style head with a large circular back stud near the bottom</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2011 Issue 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Han Dynasty</td>
<td>The Liu Zhi tomb on Cuiping hill in Xuzhou city, Jiangsu province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 6.9cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Simple animal style head with a medium sized circular back stud near the bottom</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2008 Issue 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Han Dynasty</td>
<td>The Liu Zhi tomb on Cuiping hill in Xuzhou city, Jiangsu province</td>
<td>VIII - Irregular or abstract</td>
<td>Length 6.8cm, widest section measure 4.7cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a snake</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2008 Issue 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Storage building site by the Qianhe river at Changqing in Fengxiang county, Shaanxi province</td>
<td>VIII - Irregular or abstract</td>
<td>Length 1.8cm, width 0.7cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Simple animal style head with projecting ears</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2005 Issue 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Period</td>
<td>Site name and Location</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td>Material</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Xiejiabu site in Changle county, Shandong province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 5.7cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Simple animal style head with a small circular back stud near the bottom</td>
<td>Archaeology 2005 Issue 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Xiejiabu site in Changle county, Shandong province</td>
<td>I - Bird shaped</td>
<td>Length 2.5cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Hook in the shape of a stylized bird facing its tail</td>
<td>Archaeology 2005 Issue 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Xiejiabu site in Changle county, Shandong province</td>
<td>I - Bird shaped</td>
<td>Length 3.6cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Simple animal style head with a medium sized circular back stud near the bottom</td>
<td>Archaeology 2005 Issue 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Han Dynasty</td>
<td>No.1 Han tomb at Xucungang, Zhulin township, Qixian county, Henan province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 5.5cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Animal shaped hook head with protruding features</td>
<td>Archaeology 2000 Issue 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Tombs at Yingqueshan in Linyi city, Shangdong province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 3cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Missing the head of the hook, large circular back stud</td>
<td>Archaeology 1999 Issue 5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Time Period</td>
<td>Site name and Location</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
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<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Tombs at Yingqueshan in Linyi city, Shandong province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 4.5cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Simple animal style head with a medium sized circular back stud near the bottom</td>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 1999 Issue 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Datiandong-cun village, Haobo county, Weihai city, Shandong province</td>
<td>VIII - Irregular or abstract</td>
<td>Length 3.5cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>“C” shaped hook situated on a medium sized circular back stud</td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 1998 Issue 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Datiandong-cun village, Haobo county, Weihai city, Shandong province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 7cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Simple animal style head with a medium sized circular back stud near the middle</td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 1998 Issue 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Tombs at Qinjiaqiao township, Shucheng county, Anhui province</td>
<td>I - Bird shaped</td>
<td>Length 2.4cm, height 0.9cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Hook in the shape of a stylized bird facing its tail, situated on a large circular back stud</td>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 1996 Issue 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Tombs at Qinjiaqiao township, Shucheng county, Anhui province</td>
<td>I - Bird shaped</td>
<td>Length 3.4cm, width 3.2cm, height 2cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Hook in the shape of a stylized bird facing its tail, situated on a large circular back stud</td>
<td><img src="image5.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Archaeology 1996 Issue 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Period</td>
<td>Site name and Location</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Tombs at Qinjiqiao township, Shucheng county, Anhui province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook reassembles a bird with a medium sized back stud near the bottom of the hook</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 1996 Issue 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Tombs at Songzui, Fangxian county, Hubei province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 5.5cm, width 1cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a duck</td>
<td></td>
<td>Acta Archaeologica Sinica 1992 Issue 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Tombs at Jingsi Ercun in Xi’an, Shaanxi province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 6.8cm, width 1.8cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Simple animal style head with a medium sized circular back stud near the middle</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology and Cultural Relics 2009 Issue 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Tombs at Tianpinqiu, Fengdou county, Chongqing municipality</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 10.5cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Very flat bodied with a high arched hook head</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology and Cultural Relics 2009 Issue 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Tomb C8M574 in Luoyang city, Henan province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 5cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Simple animal style head with a protruding beak</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology and Cultural Relics 2002 Issue 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Period</td>
<td>Site name and Location</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Late Western Han</td>
<td>Tombs M10 and M16 of Xinfeng cemetery in Yuzhou city, Henan province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 13cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a snake, front gilded with gold</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2010 Issue 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dynasty</td>
<td></td>
<td>I - Bird shaped</td>
<td>Length 2.9cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Hook in the shape of a duck with a long beak</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2010 Issue 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>IV - Stick shaped</td>
<td>Length 11cm, width 1.1cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a snake</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2010 Issue 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 4cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Simple animal style head with a large circular back stud near the foot of the hook</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2012 Issue 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Pictorial stone relief tomb on Bayi road, Nanyang, Henan province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 4cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Simple animal style head with a large circular back stud near the foot of the hook</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2012 Issue 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cemetery at Duimiandun in Huanggang city, Hubei province</td>
<td>IV - Stick shaped</td>
<td>Length 16.4cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Hook of the head resembles a snake with back stud near the middle</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2012 Issue 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Period</td>
<td>Site name and Location</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern Han Dynasty</td>
<td>The mounded tomb in Wujiawan,Yanshi city, Henan province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 8cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Simple animal style head with a medium sized circular back stud near the middle</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2010 Issue 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Tomb (M5) at Beiyuan in Guyuan city, Ningxia autonomous region</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 14cm, width 1.1cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a snake</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2008 Issue 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Tomb 1 at Yangjiashan in Xichang city, Sichuan province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 8cm, width 1.2cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a snake</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2007 Issue 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Tomb 1 at Yangjiashan in Xichang city, Sichuan province</td>
<td>I - Bird shaped</td>
<td>Length 2.7cm, width 0.9cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Hook in the shape of a stylized bird with a long neck facing its tail</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2007 Issue 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Jiuzhiling in Hepu county, Guangxi autonomous region</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 10.1cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a snake</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2003 Issue 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Period</td>
<td>Site name and Location</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Image</td>
<td>Source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Han Dynasty</td>
<td>Huangtan, Nankuang county, Jiangxi province</td>
<td>IV - Stick shaped</td>
<td>Length 17.5cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Simple animal style head with a medium sized circular back stud near the middle</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 1996 Issue 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Han to Southern Dynasty</td>
<td>Tombs at Ma’anling and Liangjundong in Guigang, Guangxi autonomous region</td>
<td>IV - Stick shaped</td>
<td>Length 14.1cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a snake</td>
<td></td>
<td>Acta Archaeologica Sinica 2014 Issue 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jin Dynasty</td>
<td>Dong Wutong village in Longkou city, Shandong province</td>
<td>IV - Stick shaped</td>
<td>Length 8.6cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Simple animal style head with a medium sized circular back stud near the middle</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2013 Issue 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheng Han to Eastern Jin Period</td>
<td>Cliff tombs at Hutoushan in Shifang city, Sichuan province</td>
<td>V - Pipa shaped</td>
<td>Length 4.5cm, width 2.3cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Head of the hook resembles a goose, with a large back stud</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2013 Issue 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tang Dynasty</td>
<td>Taizang pagoda in Turian city, Xinjiang autonomous region</td>
<td>IV - Stick shaped</td>
<td>Length 11.5cm</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Animal shaped hook head with protruding features. Large circular back stud near the centre of the hook</td>
<td></td>
<td>Archaeology 2012 Issue 9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix B: Catalogue of belt hooks in the ROM’s collection

Figure 3.1
928.12.22
Belt hook
Cast bronze
China
circa 206 BC to 24 AD Han Dynasty
H: 2.2 L: 4.2 D: 1.5 cm
Bishop William C. White Collection

Figure 3.2
925.85.12
Belt hook
Cast bronze
China
circa 206 BC to 220 AD Han Dynasty
L: 9.6 W: 0.7 cm
Bishop William C. White Collection

Figure 4.1
925.85.131
Belt hook
Cast bronze
China
circa 475 to 221 BC Zhou Dynasty
L: 5.4 W: 1.2 cm
Bishop William C. White Collection

Figure 4.2
928.12.14
Belt hook
Cast bronze
China
2nd century BC - 1st century AD Han Dynasty
L: 7.5 W: 2 cm
Bishop William C. White Collection
Figure 4.3
955X197.27
Belt hook
Cast bronze
China
late 19th - 1st half 20th century AD Qing Dynasty - Republic
L: 9 W: 2.2 cm

Figure 4.4
928.12.25
Belt hook
Cast bronze
China
2nd century BC - 1st century AD Han Dynasty
Ht: 2.2 Diam: 1.9 cm
Bishop William C. White Collection

Figure 4.5
928.12.71
Belt hook
Cast bronze
China
late 4th - 3rd century BC Zhou Dynasty
L: 10.2 W: 3.5 cm
Bishop William C. White Collection

Figure 4.6
934.17.249
Belt hook
Cast bronze
China
4th - 3rd century BC Zhou - Qin dynasty
L: 5.1 W: 3.4 cm
Bishop William C. White Collection
Figure 4.7
932.16.223
Belt hook
Cast bronze
China
4th - 3rd century BC Zhou Dynasty
L: 7.1 W: 2.4 cm
Bishop William C. White Collection

Figure 4.8
921.60.5
Belt hook
Cast bronze
China
4th - 3rd century BC Zhou dynasty
L: 6.1 W: 2.9 cm
Gift from Mr. G. F. Lawrence

Figure 4.9
921.60.8
Belt hook
Cast bronze
China
4th - 3rd century BC Zhou Dynasty
L: 5.8 W: 2.3 cm
Gift from Mr. G. F. Lawrence

Figure 4.10
928.12.77
Belt hook
Cast bronze
China
4th - 3rd century BC Zhou Dynasty
L: 6.8 W: 2.5 cm
Bishop William C. White Collection
Figure 4.11
925.85.42
Belt hook
Cast bronze
China
circa 300 BC to 24 AD
Zhou - Han Dynasty
L: 8.2 W: 0.8 cm
Bishop William C. White Collection

Figure 4.12
929.11.200-need photo of back
Belt hook
Cast bronze
China
circa 206 BC to 24 AD Han Dynasty
L: 15.3 W: 1.4 cm
Bishop William C. White Collection

Figure 4.13
930.21.213-need photo of top
Belt hook
Cast bronze
China
circa 400 to 221 BC Zhou Dynasty
L: 21.5 W: 1.4 cm
Bishop William C. White Collection

Figure 4.14
931.13.320
Belt hook
Bronze (cast) with gold and turquoise inlay
China
3rd century BC - 1st century AD
Zhou - Han Dynasty
L: 19.5 W: 1.2 cm
Bishop William C. White Collection
Figure 4.15
925.85.5
Belt hook
Worked and polished jade
China
Mid 14th -16th cent
Ming Dynasty
L: 10.4 W: 1.5 cm
Bishop William C. White Collection

Figure 4.16
922.20.288
Belt hook
Worked and polished jade China
17th - 18th century
Ming - Qing Dynasty
L: 10.4 W: 4.2 cm
The George Crofts Collection

Figure 4.17
934.17.254
Belt hook
Cast bronze with silver and turquoise China
5th - 3rd century BC
Zhou dynasty
L: 15.2 W: 1.4 cm
Bishop William C. White Collection

Figure 4.18
929.11.181
Belt hook
Cast bronze with gold and silver inlay China
5th - 3rd century BC
Zhou Dynasty
L: 14 W: 1.5 cm
Bishop William C. White Collection
Figure 4.19
925.85.4
Belt hook
Bronze (cast) with silver, gold and stone inlay
China
4th - 3rd century BC
Zhou dynasty
L: 12.5 W: 1.8 cm
Bishop William C. White Collection

Figure 4.20
925.85.24
Belt hook
Cast bronze with silver
China
4th - 3rd century BC
Zhou dynasty
L: 11.5 W: 2.3 cm
Bishop William C. White Collection

Figure 4.21
925.85.32
Belt hook
Cast bronze
China
circa 206 BC to 24 AD Han Dynasty
L: 10 W: 1.5 cm
Bishop William C. White Collection

Figure 4.22
960.234.382
Belt hook
Cast bronze
China
19th - early 20th century Qing Dynasty - Republic
L: 7 W: 1.9 cm
The Dr. James M. Menzies Collection
Figure 4.23
960X289.20
Belt hook
Cast bronze
China
late 19th - early 20th century Qing dynasty - Republic
L: 16.2 W: 2.1 cm
Bishop William C. White Collection

Figure 4.24
931.13.230
Belt hook
Worked and polished jade
China
206 BC-24 AD
Han Dynasty
L: 17.4 W: 1.6 cm
Bishop William C. White Collection

Figure 4.25
925.85.53
Belt hook
Cast bronze
China
circa 204 BC to 24 AD Han dynasty
L: 12 W: 1.5 cm
Bishop William C. White Collection

Figure 4.26
930.21.43
Belt hook
Cast bronze with gilding
China
circa 325 to 221 BC Zhou dynasty
L: 15.4 W: 2.4 cm
Bishop William C. White Collection
Figure 4.27
931.13.113
Belt hook
Gilded cast bronze
China
3rd - 1st century BC Zhou - Han dynasty
L: 18.7 W: 2.5 cm
Bishop William C. White Collection

Figure 4.28
922.20.117
Belt hook
Worked and polished jade
China
17th - early 20th cent.
Qing Dynasty
L: 8.9 W: 2 D: 2.2 cm
The George Crofts Collection

Figure 4.29
925.85.18
Belt hook
Cast bronze
China
4th - 3rd century BC Zhou Dynasty
L: 4.1 W: 1.5 cm
Bishop William C. White Collection

Figure 4.30
930.21.193
Belt hook
Cast bronze
China
circa 400 BC to 24 AD Zhou/Han dynasty
L: 8.8 W: 3.4 cm
Bishop William C. White Collection
Figure 4.31
918.21.929
Belt hook
Cast bronze
China
3rd century BC - 1st century AD Qin - Han dynasty
L: 6.1 cm
The George Crofts Collection

Figure 4.32
925.85.21
Belt hook
Cast bronze
China
mid 4th - mid 3rd century BC Zhou Dynasty
L: 3.7 W: 2 cm
Bishop William C. White Collection