

Basic Detail Report



Paint Brush

Date

19th century or earlier

Primary Maker

Artist Unknown

Medium

jadite and hair

Description

The dragon is often depicted chasing an object described as a pearl or jewel, the significance of which has been much debated. The emblem might symbolize the richness conferred by the fertilizing rains caused by the animal, or signify the treasure of the Lord of Waters, who must have many pearls among his possessions. Pearls are also identified with the sun and the moon. In the post Song Dynasty periods, two dragons “fighting for the pearl” are a very common motif. Just as the dragon came to represent the emperor, the phoenix or feng-huang came to represent the empress. Paired dragons and the pearl, as well as the phoenix, are etched into the jade handle of this writing brush.

Dimensions

Overall: 13 1/8 x 1 3/8 in. (33.3 x 3.5 cm)