

Desmond Gure

1905–1970

Collector and Writer

Born in Hove, Sussex, England, Desmond Gure was educated at Brighton College and then at Guy's Hospital, where he qualified as a dental surgeon in 1926. He became Honorary Consulting Dental Surgeon to the City of London Maternity Hospital, but for most of his life he ran a successful dental practice in Cornhill, London.

Gure developed an interest in Chinese jade during World War II. Over the years he built both a reputation as an authority on early jade and a collection that included early Chinese ceramics and metalwork. He lent jades to the *Arts of the Sung Dynasty* exhibition in 1960 and contributed an essay to the catalogue. The exhibition was organized by the Oriental Ceramic Society of London, of which he was a member. He also wrote several articles on early jades. Gure sold a number of pieces during his lifetime, most notably in sales in 1963 and 1966, but the majority of his collection was sold to Dr. Arthur M. Sackler in 1968.

Literature

Desmond Gure, "An Early Jade Animal Vessel and some Parallels," *Transactions of the Oriental Ceramic Society* 31 (1957–59), pp. 75–82.

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Desmond Gure, "Some Unusual Early Jades and Their Dating," *Transactions of the Oriental Ceramic Society* 33 (1960–62), pp. 41–59.

Christie's, *Fine Chinese Porcelain, Hardstones and Oriental Works of Art*, May 27 (London, 1963).

Desmond Gure, *Selected Examples from the Jade Exhibition at Stockholm, 1963: A Comparative Study* (Stockholm, 1964).

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Hugh Shire, "Desmond Gure L.D.S., R.C.S.," *Guy's Hospital Gazette* 86, no. 2191 (1970), p. 346.

Roy Davids and Dominic Jellinek, *Provenance: Collectors, Dealers and Scholars in the Field of Chinese Ceramics in Britain and America* (Oxford, England, 2011), p. 208.