



JADE

JADE (nephrite; Pers. *yašm*, *yašb*, *yašf*, *yašb*). For at least two and a half millennia, Jade has been carved in the lands where Iranian languages have prevailed in various eras. The known material is often of extraordinary refinement, and testifies to an extensive influence on other jadecarving cultures, including the Chinese. Most of the major lapidary regions were in the eastern Iranian world, particularly in ancient and medieval Central Asia (q.v.), encompassing Sogdiana, Khotan (Kōtan), and Bactria, as far as Farḡāna (qq.v.). This entry will be divided into three sections:

i. [Introduction](#)

ii. [Pre-Islamic Iranian Jades](#)

iii. [Jade Carving, 4th century B.C.E to 15th century C.E](#)