LOT 108
PROPERTY FROM AN IMPORTANT ASIAN COLLECTION
A JADE 'DRAGON' ORNAMENT, XI
ZHOU – HAN DYNASTY
of flat tapering crescent form, crisply worked and reticulated with the broad end terminating in a horned dragon head, incised to either side with scrollwork simulating the haunches and claws, the stone of an opaque milky-beige colour with grey inclusions 11.8 cm, 4 5/8 in.

ESTIMATE 150,000-200,000 HKD

PROVENANCE
Acquired in the 1970s.

CATALOGUE NOTE
Xi such as the present one are believed to have been used for untangling knots and came to represent the untangling of disagreements between children and their parents. A related xi, incised with a design of interlacing hydres, attributed to the Warring States period, in the Palace Museum, Beijing, is published in Gugong bowuyuan cangpin daxi: yuqi bian [Compendium of Collections in the Palace Museum: Jade], vol. 3: Spring and Autumn Period and Warring States Period, Beijing, 2011, pl. 206. Xi of this arched form, but of much simpler design, include one attributed to the late Zhou dynasty in the Harvard Art Museums, illustrated in Max Loehr, Ancient Chinese Jades from the Grenville L. Winthrop Collection in the Fogg Art Museum, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1975, pl. 500; and another attributed to the Eastern Zhou dynasty, from the collection of Stephen Junkunc III, sold in our New York rooms, 19th March 2019, lot 101.