



The Romance of Jade

Wyoming has long been known as a source of Black Gold in the form of Oil, but we have also gained world fame for the presence of "Green Gold" or Jade---the gem supreme since earliest civilization. Our Jade in Wyoming is of the nephrite variety, and chemically is a Calcium Magnesium Iron Silicate "formed under great pressure when the hearts of mountains were filled with heat and a singular passion for beauty." (Kraft) It occurs in all colors varying from white to green, black, purple, red, yellow, brown, pink, and gray.

Jade is a magic word to ancient and modern civilization and has been revered and worshipped by the Chinese thousands of years before even the time of Confucius. Their word for Jade is YÜ, meaning "Jewel of Heaven," and to it is ascribed the five cardinal virtues---namely Charity, Modesty, Courage, Justice, and Wisdom.

Pearl Buck wrote, "Jade is a possession to be cherished by anyone who can find or buy it; Chinese women ask for Jade ornaments for their hair and old men keep in their closed palm, a piece of cool Jade so smooth it seems soft to the touch. Wealthy men invest in Jade rather than Gold. It grows more beautiful with age, and the Jade lover regards it as the most sumptuous of jewels against a woman's flesh."

It was said by Kraft that Jade is not for man's material gain but for the betterment of his immortal soul and the quickening of the spirit of adventure within him.

(From the Feese lecture on Jade)

Feese method for polishing Jade.

BE SURE that Cab has all grinding marks off before starting to polish. I use a belt sander - wet grit and after all visible marks are off, use belt sander which was about 400 grit but half worn out so that it has become equal to about 1200.

After above you are ready to polish. Use Chromium Oxide and polish on chrome leather with belly side out. Get leather fairly wet, then put on chromium oxide with small brush. Have the chromium oxide mixed with DISTILLED water and the mix should be about as thick as thin gravy.

Two other very important items in polishing jade - cab, your hands and leather must be clean and free from grease. If you ever get any grease on your leather, you might as well throw it away. Never use your chromium oxide leather for any other polishing agent. Never use anything but distilled water on your oxide or leather. I get my distilled water from the defrosting drippings of the refrigerator. Boil, and bottle.

Now you are ready to polish - keep cab on leather buff until the polish quits dragging heavy; then add a little more water to the leather again and if you deem necessary add more polish mix and you will note as you polish that the leather gradually dries and as it dries the drag becomes heavy. At this point it is doing its real polishing. Proceed in this way until you are satisfied with your polish job. At the last I usually take short jab strokes on the whirling leather which seems to accomplish a good final result.