The culture of China’s literati and their pursuit of antiquity have been popular subjects of art-historical research. Often these investigations center on the realms of painting, calligraphy, and ritual bronzes of the Northern Song, and Late Ming and Qing dynasties. This presentation looks at the same phenomena from the perspective of another medium, jade. Although jade has been a central icon in Chinese culture spanning several millennia, its place in the life of the Chinese literati has been neglected in most studies. We shall focus on jade during the period from the Southern Song to the early Qing dynasty (12th to 17th Centuries). Archaeologically excavated examples of securely datable jades from Song and later contexts, as well as important objects in museum collections, shall form the backbone for this exploration into the Song-Ming scholars’ impressions of antiquity.