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ARCHÉOLOGIE MUSÉALE
FOSSILES – BIJOUX RARES ET ANCIENS
CABINET DE CURIOSITÉS DES GRANDES CIVILISATIONS

CERTIFICATE

SET OF 3 FUNERARY VASES EGYPT - EARLY DYNASTIC PERIOD (3000-2750 BC)

MATERIAL AND METHOD: Set of three lovely funerary vases in alabaster, of a light beige colour with white bands. The alabaster, (sometimes called *satin spar*) is made of agate. The first vase is long in shape (height 7.5 cm), another has flared rims (height 10 cm). The cup in agate is 4.5 cm in height.

Egyptian alabaster (*ches*) was in high demand, as it was considered the representation of purity (*Ouab*).

Excellent state of preservation.

ORIGIN: In order to guarantee the purity of the deceased, mummies were surrounded with small vases filled with ointments and perfumes. Healing and protective oils were also put on the skin to protect them from disease. These small vases would be filled with cream, oil and fats scented with nutmeg, pistachio or fenugreek and would be warmed up. There was also benzene and creosote. The cylindrical vases and unguentaries were named *alâbas* « small abas pots », and it was the Greeks that named alabastron the small perfume vases usually in alabaster.

MEASUREMENTS: Cup: Height: 5 cm (1.9") - Diameter: 4.5 cm (1.7") Alabastron: Height: 8 cm (3.1") - Diameter: 4 cm (1.5") Vase: Height: 10 cm (3.9") - Diameter: 6 cm (2.3")

MUSEOGRAPHY: a beautiful collection of similar pieces is exhibited at the Boston Museum of fine arts.

This set was exhibited in the Musée National de France in Montélimar: Title of the exhibition: "Parfums de Grands Maîtres" - June 25th to December 31th, 2016. It figures on page 11 of the catalogue.

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