

# GALERIE GOLCONDA

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

## CERTIFICATE

### **ALTAR CANDELABRUM**

**VIETNAM - BAT TRANG ( AD 16th century)**

**MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE:** This large baluster vase is composed of two parts; a final cup for oil probably placed at the top of the neck is missing. Made of clay mixed with silica and turned on a wheel. White slip background painted with blue dragon motifs. The cover served to vitrify the object, it often contains quartz heavy in silica feldspar rich in aluminium oxide. A very pretty ornamentation of dragons was applied during the first firing. Good general condition. Chips on the upper part of the neck, tiny cracks from the firing and some decorative parts in relief are missing.

**ORIGIN:** The sculptural character of this candelabrum is typical of the Hanoi region and Bat Trang in particular since the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Although having inherited Chinese techniques, ceramic art of Vietnam only laid the foundations for its aesthetics once it was free from their domination, in 939. The dragon, which always represents the East, is one of the four symbolic animals used as earthly manifestations of the heavens: it remains the ideal mount for the deceased to ride to the afterlife. Invented in Northern China 5000 years ago, it appeared in multiple forms, although it always looked like some sort of reptile monster. Over time, lion's claws and an ox's head were added, and it was represented in an aquatic environment, like here, surrounded by scattered wavelets. Although the West very quickly transformed dragons into evil animals, they are still considered symbols of energy and good omens in Asia. The dragon on this vase is remarkable. It imparts a sense of energy, with its movement it is powerful and very decorative.

**DIMENSIONS:** Height 61cm/ 24,01'' - Circumference 90 cm/35,43''.

**MUSEOGRAPHY:** A similar object is exhibited at the Musée Guimet in Paris, mentioned as coming from the Henri Maspéro collection and bearing the date 1579

**CULTURAL PASSEPORT** issued by the French ministry of culture, n° 121490.

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