

GALERIE GOLCONDA

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

CERTIFICATE

MING ROOF TILE DEPICTING AN IMMORTEL

CHINA – MING DYNASTY (1368 – 1644)

Ex Metropolitan Museum – New York

MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE: large terracotta figure set on a moulded roof tile with green, yellow and ivory sancai glaze. The figure is in a standing position, of a good size and wears a long aristocratic gown.

ORIGIN: the word *sancai*, meaning "three colours" in Chinese, is obtained by using different oxides mixed with varnishes baked at a low temperature. Iron produces yellow, copper gives green or sometimes-dark brown, and cobalt produces the colour blue. It seems that this search for colour dates back to the Han period, when they sought to imitate bronze objects, deemed more precious because their cost of production was high.

No visible restorations, original cracks. Some imperfections due to age.

DIMENSIONS: Height: 60.3 cm (23.7") -Width of the tile : 20cm (7,87")

THERMOLUMINESCENCE TEST: n° Qed1725/FC-0205 confirming the dating by QED laboratory.

PROVENANCE: Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. This piece was recorded as having been acquired in 1915 by the legacy of J. Rogers. Jacob Rogers inherited in 1856 from his father the second largest locomotive manufacturing company in the United States. At the time of his death, although he was known for being stingy and attributing little interest to art, he bequeathed much of his fortune to the Metropolitan Museum, becoming one of his greatest philanthropists of all time. He donated today's equivalent of \$170 million dollars. It is thanks to this gift that the museum acquired this piece in 1915. In accordance with his last wishes, the MET cannot use this money, but only the income it generates. Many masterpieces were purchased thanks to this story.

Police book registration N°: 1867