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CABINET DE CURIOSITÉS DES GRANDES CIVILISATIONS

CERTIFICATE

CULTUAL MASK IN COPPER WITH GOLD PERU - MOCHICA (300 BC – AD 300)

MATERIAL AND METHOD : Pectoral mask in oxidized copper. Probably the portrait of a high dignitary, the eyes once emphasized by shells inlaid in the mask, today missing. He is wearing a necklace made of pellet shaped pendants. The ears are missing. Excellent thick and crusty patina, rich cuprite due to age and salt in the soil of this desert region.

ORIGIN : The flourishing Mochica or *Moche* culture extended along the northern Peruvian coast, in the coastal oasis and the foothills of the Andean chain from 100 B.C. to A.D. 700. They had an aesthetic vocabulary which would replace the fact that they did not know how to write, and Moche art evolved according to distinct periods (from Mochica 1 to Mochica 5). A tomb named after the Lord of Ucupe was uncovered in Huaca del Pueblo in 1999 with inside a treasure of silver and copper tiaras, jewellery and sacrificed llamas. In these tombs ritual objects were discovered placed on the face of the deceased in pairs on top of one another and masks would be placed on the chest. It seems that everything was sewn onto a fabric to which metal feet and hands would be added.

MEASUREMENTS: Height without the base: 11 cm (4,33")

Height including the base: 18 cm (7.08") including the base.

CULTURAL PASSEPORT issued by the French Ministry of Culture n° 160486.

MUSEOGRAPHY: The mask was exhibited at the Musée National de Montélimar, Summer exhibition June/September 2014 under the theme « Les masques, entre miniature et démesure ». It is published in the catalogue of the exhibition.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: published in « *Collecting Masterpieces* », Part one, by Beryl Cavallini, pages 242 and 243.

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