

GALERIE GOLCONDA

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

CERTIFICATE

PAIR OF HUMPING VASES

CHINA - SOUTHERN SONG DYNASTY AD 1113-1279)

MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE: pair of ritual vases in light-coloured stoneware with a slightly crackled finish called *qingbai*. The transparent greenish glaze is green due to the presence of iron pigments (typical of celadon), The body, set on a base, is of a cylindrical and slender shape that becomes ovoid at the lower part. The middle part is decorated with human subjects and animals applied in relief, while the lids are decorated with cranes. On the body of the vases, dogs, turtles, birds and 12 Taoist wise men can be seen.

The measurements are outstanding, giving a great elegance to this pair of urns.

Excellent state of preservation, no visible repair.

ORIGIN: this important pair of vases belongs to a traditional type of funerary vessels which were generally placed as a pair in the tomb, lined up on a east/west meridian. The Chinese dragon is a fantastic creature with the body of a snake, the scales and the tail of a fish, the face of a *qilin* (a mythical creature), the talon of an eagle and the eyes of a demon. It is represented here while playing with fire, surrounded by animals and symbolising the myth of immortality.

DIMENSIONS: Height: 79 cm and 82 cm / 31.1" and 32.28 " - Width: 17 cm / 6.69

TEST: Each urn is supplied with thermoluminescent tests by Qed laboratory. The urn B test n° QED1408/FC-0611 confirms the datation.

EXPORT LICENCE: supplied with a Passeport culturel from the French ministry of culture numb. 166725

MUSEOGRAPHY: a very similar piece is exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum of New-York, reference 15.62 a/b - gift of Samuel T. Peters, 1915.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: published in "*Collecting Masterpieces Part one*" by Beryl Cavallini, pages 38/39.

Police book registration N°: 1509.A.B.