

GALERIE GOLCONDA

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

CERTIFICATE

A VERY TALL CAMEL WITH PACKSADDLES CHINA - TANG DYNASTY (AD 618-907)

MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE: two-humped camel with long legs, in a clear beige terracotta, partly moulded and partly fashioned with some traces of a layer of white slip and polychromy. The camel stands still and proud, head upturned, with the mouth open to show a complete set of teeth. Standing four square on its plinth, wearing a packsaddle and a double-pocket beggar's bag. Its coat is nicely elaborated with an interesting work in relief confirming that it is a camel coming from cold areas such as the silk road.

Good state of preservation. Possible ancient repairs.

ORIGIN: The camel from the deserts of Central Asia could have originated from Bactria as Linnus documented in 1758. The camel with its two fatty humps was a very important animal for the Chinese economy. It was widely used as a draft animal, as well as a mount and to transport merchandise along the Silk Road. The Chinese ate its meat and drank its milk (always fermented) and they weaved its much-appreciated wool. Nearly two meters high, it was known in China since the Han dynasty, an era in which the emperors used them for their hardiness in the postal delivery at the borders of the deserts.

On dec. 2014, a couple of tombs dating from the Tang Dynasty were discovered in Huayin, Central China's Shaanxi province. The owner of the tomb was a county magistrate under the reign of Emperor Gaozong (649 to 683) called Song Su. On the photography a very similar camel, with very long legs and packboard in unglazed terracotta can be seen.

DIMENSIONS: Height: 74 cm - Length: 53 cm

TEST: supplied with a thermoluminescent test by laboratory Kotalla n° 030-408.

CERTIFICATE: supplied with an export licence issued by the French Ministry of Culture number 139190.

Police book registration N°: 902