

GALERIE GOLCONDA

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

CERTIFICATE

WOODEN FALCON COVERED WITH PAINTED GESSO

EGYPT - NEW KINGDOM (1550-1069 BC)

ANCIENT COLLECTION OF 2nd EARL of BELMORE

MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE: Statuette representing a wooden falcon covered in painted gesso. The animal crouches on its simply shaped legs and is covered with a yellow (colour of the sun) and red (colour of fire and victory) shroud. The gesso is a white coating of calcium sulphate, allowing to unify a surface and help the paint to take. The falcon's head is drawn in black paint with, on the back of the skull, the use of green paint (symbol of regeneration) for the plumage.

Very fine state of preservation,. Some fragments of painted gesso missing on the animal's breast.

ORIGIN : The falcon is a very important royal animal in Egyptian mythology. It is most commonly associated with the god Horus but can symbolize other divinities: here it is a representation of Sokar, god of the cemeteries of the region of Giza and Memphis, patron of craftsmen in metal.

DIMENSIONS: Height: 10.5 cm (4.3”) without base -- Width: 4.5 cm (1.7”)

Mounted on a custom made stand not included in the measurements.

Height including the base:12 cm (4.7”)

EXPORT LICENCE: supplied with a Passeport Culturel issued by the French Ministry of Culture Number 148323.

PROVENANCE: Collection of the 2nd Earl of Belmore (1774-1841) who had travelled in the Near East between 1816 and 1818. The objects which he collected during this period come mainly from the region of Deir-el-Medineh, the village of craftsmen in Antiquity. This origin confirms the representation in the form of falcon of the god Sokar, the protector of craftsmen in metal. Upon his death, the earl's heirs sold the largest part of his collection to the British Museum. Bought at Charles Ede Ltd, London in 1975.

MUSEOGRAPHY: A similar piece is exhibited in the Musée du Louvre, inv. N 3941 B, Sully building, ground floor, room 18, "the gods and magic", showcase 1 "small dictionary of the gods".

BIBLIOGRAPHY: published in Collecting Masterpieces, part One at pages 200/201

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