

GALERIE GOLCONDA

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

CERTIFICATE

CAMEL WITH MONKEYS

CHINA – TANG DYNASTY (AD 618 – 907)

MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE: superb representation of a growling camel, with two monkeys on its back. Moulded grey terracotta with a white slip and polychrome. Growling Bactrian camel, moving to attack two little monkeys who tease him from the pack on its back. Good state of preservation. Probable ancient restorations.

ORIGIN: the camel appears in written sources as early as the 5th century BC. Since the 6th century, depictions of animals have become more and more realistic and the Tang dynasty found amusement in highlighting the monumentality and unpractical character of the camel. This animal was commonly found in the steppe desert, however, was never mounted by the Chinese. Understanding their utility for the trade of goods through the long desert expanses, they raised and rented the services of western grooms who came from the Ural plateau. The camel is used in Central Asia, and at present the dromedary is used in Southern Asia, Asia Minor and Africa. They are not employed in the wilderness, except in Australia, where they were introduced and then abandoned. Dromedaries and camels belong to the same biological genus, the dromedary fetus develops two humps during gestation, which melt into one hump shortly before birth.

DIMENSIONS: Height: 28 cm (11") – Width: 30 cm (11.8")

TEST OF THERMOLUMINESCENCE: performed by Ralf Kotalla Laboratory, which confirms the dating of this piece. Test n° 08G250910.

CULTURAL PASSPORT: issued by the French Ministry of Culture, n° 126090.

Police book registration N°: 1178