

# GALERIE GOLCONDA

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

## CERTIFICATE

### **OPERA SINGER ON HORSEBACK TANG DYNASTY (AD 618-907)**

**MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE:** A very rare iconographic work, presenting an excellent parade horseman sitting firmly on a grey terracotta horse painted in a white slip. The horse is characteristic of the period with its high legs, large and dynamic croup, open mouth, small cocked ears, delicately drawn eyes, and a short curved tail. The horseman is sumptuously dressed in pants with a crossed collar tunic heightened by brown, green and orange decoration. He wears a golden crown and a green-feathered pheasant whose tail drapes over the horseman's shoulder. A small oriole is perched on his right hand.

Good state of preservation. No visible repairs, possible ancient restorations.

**ORIGIN:** This scene is based on a musical parade or an opera. Chinese opera is, in fact, a form of sung traditional theatre. Music and dance are very present in China since ancient times. But the first organized form of "opera" is attributed to Emperor Xuanzong (712-755), patron of the arts and founder of the first troupe, named *Liyuan*, "the Pear Garden". In China, the pheasant is the imperial symbol of authority. It is also, through its dance and song, the symbol of cosmic harmony.

**DIMENSIONS:** Height: 49cm/19.291 in – Length: 37cm/ 14.566 in – Width: 17cm/ 6.692 in

**TEST:** thermoluminescent test n°16G250910 by laboratory Kotalla confirming the dating.

**EXPORT LICENCE:** supplied with a Passeport Culturel issued by the French Ministry of Culture Numb. 126089.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:** published in *Collecting Masterpieces Part One* by Beryl Cavallini at pages 42/43.

**MUSEOGRAPHY:** a similar object is present in the Xi'an Municipal Institute of Archaeology and Preservation of Cultural Relics in the province of Shaanxi and published in the catalogue of the exhibition "The Golden Age of Chinese Archaeology, celebrated discoveries from the People's Republic of China", ed. National Gallery of Art, Washington and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, 1999, lot n°171 p. 494/495.

Police book registration N°: 1180