

GALERIE GOLCONDA

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

CERTIFICATE

PARADE HORSE WITH TRIMMINGS WEI DYNASTY (AD 386-589)

MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE: a horse made of moulded terracotta covered with a white slip then decorated with polychromatic orangey details. Standing with an attitude characteristic of the period, the animal looks solid on its legs although they are thin, the head leaning, the trapping superbly detailed and the saddle richly decorated with two fins as mudguard on the sides. To be noted: the beauty of the head decorated with a crest and a crupper bearing cabochons made of trimmings, a habit of that time.

Probable ancient repairs due to age.

ORIGIN: The heavily-harnessed parade horse shows the preponderant place dedicated to the animal in ancient Chinese society. After the Han dynasty it evolved toward a sublimated image. The elegance of the silhouette became very important, the head stretch out, narrow and hooked with short ears. The back is arched with a sharp ridge. The tail and the hooves are nicely depicted. The Northern Wei unified the country from Mongolia to the central Chinese plains and reopened the Silk Road. This brought great prosperity to the country and the contact with Byzantine and Persian cultures permitted the introduction of Arab horses unknown until then.

DIMENSIONS: Height: 40,2 cm / 15,83 in - width: 30cm (11,81’’)

TEST: supplied with a thermoluminescent test n°140612 by laboratory Kotalla confirms the datation.

CULTURAL PASSPORT N°166719 issued by the French ministry of culture.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: published in “Collecting Masterpieces - Part One” by Beryl Cavallini at pages 210/211

Police book registration number: 1464