

GALERIE GOLCONDA

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

CERTIFICATE

EXCELLENT HARNESSSED BUFFALO “NIU” CHINA - WEI DYNASTY (AD 386-589)

MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE: Moulded, grey-coloured terracotta buffalo covered with a white slip and decorated with polychromatic details. The animal is set on a base in a walking position, the head held up and crowned with two beautiful, curved and thick horns in the shape of a lyre. The smooth muzzle is extended and the body wears a harness with a motif composed of six serpent heads. The whole piece is powerful and well balanced.

Excellent state of preservation. Possible ancient restoration

ORIGIN: In the kingdoms of ancient China, the buffalo was an important symbol of farming and of spring and they use to play a role in many myths and legends. Peasants worshipped the king of bovines “*Nieou-Wang*”, setting up altars to him to protect their herds from disease. In Taoism, Lao Tseu is often represented mounted on a buffalo: the erudite sage, being neither a noble nor a warrior, could not have a horse for a mount.

In Chinese language the generic term for buffalo, oxen, is “*niu*”: “*the animal that pulls the cart*”. The specimen here belongs to the *Bubalus* genus (Hamilton Smith 1827). In China, the buffalo is also an astrological sign of which the main features are tenacity, equilibrium and patience.

DIMENSIONS: Height: 38 cm - 14,96” / Length: 48 cm - 18,9”

THERMOLUMINESCENCE TEST n° 031112 confirming the dating by Ralph Kotalla laboratory.

CERTIFICATE: The statue is supplied with a Passeport Culturel delivered by the French Ministry of Culture, n° 166718.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: published in “*Collecting Masterpieces - Part One*” by Beryl Cavallini, at pages 192/193.

Police book registration N°: 1485