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

CERTIFICATE

FACE OF A BODHISATTVA GANDHĀRA (AD 1st - 5th century)

MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE: front of the head in fine-grain grey schist originating from the valleys of present-day Pakistan or Afghanistan. Fine and detailed sculpture executed in *ronde bosse*, putting in relief the characteristics of Greco-Buddhist representation. The eyes are almond-shaped and slightly protruding, aquiline nose, fleshy mouth in a slightly plump face. Coiffure typical of Indian inspiration with a chignon held in place by a pompom on the top of the head; the hair is well drawn in even strands and held back from the forehead by a hoop. Presence of the *urna* on the centre of the forehead, deeply carved, most probably being decorated with a stone or coloured glass at the time.

Missing parts as can be seen.

ORIGIN: Greco-Buddhist Art of the Gandhāra.

The art of the Gandhāra, born on Indian soil and in the service of the Buddhist religion, uses iconographic elements drawn from the religious repertory and artfully combines them with the sculpting techniques introduced by the Greek soldiers from Macedonia then from Bactria, who had followed Alexander the Great. It was in that period that the first human images of Buddha appeared, adhering to the Greek beliefs that held the gods to be men and showing theological changes that reveal a new need for devotional images as a spiritual support.

DIMENSIONS: Width: 16 cm / 6,2992" - Depth: 6 cm / 2,3622"

Height without the base: 23 cm / 9,05" - Height including the base: 32cm / 12,59"

CULTURAL PASSPORT issued by the French ministry of culture, n°166722.

MUSEOGRAPHY: A similar piece is exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York: Rogers Fund collection, 1923, accession number 13.96.8

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