

GALERIE GOLCONDA

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

CERTIFICATE

ORCHESTRA CONSISTING OF SEVEN FEMALE MUSICIANS CHINA - TANG DYNASTY (AD 618-907)

MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE: handsome orchestra composed of seven female musicians moulded in a buff colour terracotta. All kneeling, each holding in her hands a different instrument. The dresses are composed of a *banbi* with long red painted sleeves reaching the floor while the long dress is painted in white. Small hairdo typical of the Tang fashion, fixed on the top of the head. Each face is different, the eyebrows and eyes delicately are painted with a black brush.

Excellent state of preservation, possible ancient repair. Presence of soil in various parts.

ORIGIN: The instruments played are the transverse flute (Dizi), small harp (Konghou), pan pipes (henghi), hourglass drums (yaogu) and cymbals. Music under the Tang period adopted the customs of the most varied minorities. It can be called *qingshan music* when it integrates the traditional music dating back to the Han. The *music from the northern countries* and the *Goreyo music* were also very fashionable. All the music of that time was supposed to accompany the sung and danced poetry.

DIMENSIONS: Height: 17 cm / 6.69" – width: 12 cm / 4.72"

TESTS: thermoluminescent test by laboratory Qed n° QED1415/FC-0211 and Ralf Kotalla n° 06G171112 which confirms the dating.

CULTURAL PASSPORT: supplied with an export licence issued by the French Ministry of Culture number 189790, allowing this piece to travel worldwide.

MUSEOGRAPHY: A similar group is exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York: Rogers Fund collection, 1923, accession number 23.180.4

BIBLIOGRAPHY : published in « Collecting Masterpieces, Part Oner » by Beryl Cavallini at pages 212/213.

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