

GALERIE GOLCONDA

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

CERTIFICATE

**RARE SILVERED BRONZE VASE TIN ENRICHED
CHINA - SHANG PERIOD (1600 - 1040 BC)
MID-ANYANG PERIOD**

MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE: a rare silvered-bronze vase of excellent quality, showing a light green patina due to the presence of cuprite. The silvery grey shiny light is due to the cover of a powder of tin which also helped protect the bronze from corrosion. The piece was made using the mould casting technique. The vase rests on a tall engraved pedestal foot. The body of the vase is flat, and bears two registers of very finely worked *Leiwen* motifs, as well as on the shoulder. Each register is divided into three repetitive elements displayed around a central Taotie motif, and separated by a vertical element with zigzag edging. The mouth of the vase is very wide.

Excellent state of preservation.

ORIGIN: Shang period bronze work is dominated by ritual vases used during human sacrifices. These ritual vases inspired their forms from earlier ceramics from Neolithic period. They show complex decorations achieved through mould engraving and it is the advent of section moulding which imposed the creation of compartmentalised motifs. Ornamentation therefore becomes a fundamental part of the vase, particularly with the development of animal motifs such as the Taotie, a symbolic design representing a mythical creature. The type of Taotie seen here closely resembles those seen during the third Anyang period as the mask has no lower jaw and two balls symbolising the eyes. The creature was thought to be a good omen.

DIMENSIONS: Height: 15 cm/ 5,90” – Diam at the largest: 19 cm/7.48”

EXPORT LICENCE: supplied with a Passeport Culturel issued by the French Ministry of Culture number 158632, allowing this piece to travel worldwide.

PUBLICATION: published in “collecting Masterpieces” part one, by beryl Cavallini at pages 188/189

Police book registration N°: 1524