

GALERIE GOLCONDA

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

CERTIFICATE

GUI RITUAL VESSEL WITH BUFFALO HEADS CHINA – LATE SHANG - EARLY ZHOU DYNASTY

MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE: Bronze vase called *Gui* because of its cylindrical shape decorated with buffalo heads showing stylized horns placed at an equidistance on the handles. Bronze made in moulded parts using the reversed casting method, which permitted the multiple and regular reproduction of the design in relief on the body. It is a moulding technique and method of decorating typical of that period. Geometrical design composed of picots in relief separated by a stripe composed of vertical lines. At the base there is a frieze with a *Leiwen* pattern of interlacing curled volutes and stylized dragons.

A rare piece of art, in a good state of preservation, presenting an interesting heavy patina rich in cuprite. Some remains of soil due to excavations.

ORIGIN: The Zhou ruled China from 1050 to 221 BC. This period can be divided into two: the first dynasties, called Western Zhou left their mark with a style from the territories they had come from, and which was different from the former Shang rulers. Keeping contacts with their ancient territories located in Northern and South Western part of China, they transmitted the type of decorations of their traditional potteries and bronzes. The bronze production of the Zhou period is dominated by ritual vessels which were used to heat the most refined dishes during funerary rituals. They illustrated the splendour and pomp corresponding to the lifetime of the deceased. During the 1st millennium BC, China was the only civilization to place great importance in bronze, even more than silver and gold.

These vessels

DIMENSIONS: Height: 11 cm/ 4.33" – width: 21 cm/ 8.27"

EXPORT LICENCE: supplied with a Passeport Culturel issued by the French Ministry of Culture number 158633, allowing this piece to travel worldwide.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: published in "collecting masterpieces part one" by Beryl Cavallini at pages 190/191

MUSEOGRAPHY: The British Museum presents a similar vase in Asia Room numb. 33 – Joseph E. Hotung Gallery.

Police book registration N°: 1525