

# GALERIE GOLCONDA

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

## CERTIFICATE

### **VERY RARE COMPLETE SARCOPHAGUS EGYPT - PTOLEMAIC PERIOD (6<sup>th</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> century BC)**

**MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE:** complete sarcophagus in stuccoed and painted wood. The face is painted in green, the colour of the flesh of Osiris, the symbol of renewal and rebirth, and is framed by a long wig. It has prominent ears, two braids and a fake beard. All facial features are applied and fixed with wooden pegs from the period. Three beetles symbolizing the eternal cycle are arranged around the face. Presence of a large Usekh collar. The lower part of the decoration is composed of a winged sun and the gods Anubis, Osiris and Ptah. A short hieroglyphic text is painted between the gods, which signifies "The God who governs Upper and Lower Egypt". Appearing together, the rush symbolizing Upper Egypt and the bee of Lower Egypt represent the domain of Pharaoh, the ruler of Upper and Lower Egypt.

On the sides of the sarcophagus two ibises are depicted, symbols of the god Thoth, patron of scribes and writing, and on the back a black-painted cartouche.

**ORIGIN:** *sarkophagus* in Greek means "flesh-eating." The rare wood in Egypt was much more expensive and therefore more luxurious than stone. The phrases written on the sarcophagus are drawn primarily from the Book of the Dead and the gods represented, vary according to the will of the deceased. Only Osiris, god of resurrection, and Anubis, god of mummification, were found on almost every ancient Egyptian coffin.

**DIMENSIONS:** Height: 179 cm / 70.5 '' - Width: 53.5 cm / 20.8''  
Depth: 41 cm / 16.14 ''

**CARBON 14 TEST:** conducted par ETH, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich. Number 32418 01030606 dating the wood 2435 years with 45 years of possible error.

**CERTIFICATE:** supplied with an export licence issued by the French Ministry of Culture number 100712

**MUSEOGRAPHY:** a similar sarcophagus is exhibited in the Archaeological Museum of Florence, Italy.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:** published in "*Collecting Masterpieces*" Part One, by Beryl Cavallini pages 64/65

Police book registration N°: 155