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

CERTIFICATE

EXCELLENT PAIR OF POLO PLAYERS CHINA - TANG DYNASTY (AD 618-907)

MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE: Interesting pair of lady playing polo made of moulded terracotta and hand painted. The riders and their mount are symmetrical. Each jumping horse presents a vigorous croup, flaring nostrils, bulging eyes, small pointed ears and a braided tail as it used to be for horses owned by the aristocracy. Both women are dressed in the barbarian style wearing a long tunic over a pair of louse trousers. The colours are lively and fresh. Each woman has her hair in a chignon high on the top of the head, in the Uyghur manner.

Good state of preservation with possible ancient repairs.

ORIGIN: The sport of polo was born at the beginning of our era in Central Asia. It was part of the entertainment at the Sassanid court and was also regularly played at the borders with India. Around 630 AD, the Tang began their big expansion towards the West, transforming Chang'an, located on the Silk Road, into a cosmopolitan capital. The introduction of polo in China dates back to that time. Under the Tang Dynasty, polo was a sport widely practiced by the aristocracy and especially by women, despite its roughness.

DIMENSIONS: Height: 30 cm / 11,81" – width: 38 cm / 14,96 "

TEST: thermoluminescent test n° QED1337/FC-0203 by laboratory Qed confirms the dating.

CULTURAL PASSPORT: supplied with an export licence issued by the French Ministry of Culture, n° 190708.

MUSEOGRAPHY: For a polo-playing lady in a similar position and with similar colours, see the Guimet Museum in Paris.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: published in "Collecting Masterpieces Part One", by Beryl Cavallini at pages 14/15

Police book registration N° 1554