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

CERTIFICATE

TSONG PILLAR IN NEPHRITE JADE CHINA - HAN DYNASTY (206 BC - AD 220)

MATERIAL AND METHOD: "tsong" pillar in nephrite jade that is dark grey with speckles of black. The pillar is square with rounded corners and is covered with motifs typical of the Han period. The hollow centre clearly shows the signs of manual finish. It was customary to pierce jade objects starting from both ends, which often included a sign of alignment at the joining point.

Traces of limestone and signs of crystallization. Small scratches due to age.

Fine condition.

ORIGIN: in China the "tsong" pillar is the symbol of the earth. One can truly speak of the art of jade. The subtleness of the forms produced in Neolithic cultures were found from the mouth of Yangzi River (Liangzhu culture) until South east Mongolia. This very hard stone was usually perfectly polished and cut following pure geometrical forms, portraying motifs that seemed to be harmoniously arranged. The polishing of this stone could only be done by using methods of friction, abrasion and polishing. The composite material of jade, which is extremely hard, was clearly chosen based on symbolic considerations that enhance the purity associated with its hardness, and many values in Chinese culture. Jade is attributed to the protection of the body by cultures that believe in the migration of the physical body from this life to that of our ancestors, or the realm of the immortals. It is for this reason that these objects belong to funerary traditions.

MEASUREMENTS: Length: 4,6 cm (1,81") x 6 cm (2,3") x 4.5 cm (1.7")

PROVENANCE: this piece once belonged to the collection of a French diplomat, posted in Beijing in the 80's.

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