

GALERIE GOLCONDA

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

CERTIFICATE

JADE HAIRPIN WITH DRAGON AND PHOENIX CHINA - ARCHAIC DYNASTIES (ca. 1st - 3rd century B.C.)

MATERIAL AND METHOD : Hairpin of dragon and phoenix in nephrite jade. The Chinese name for phoenix is *Fenghuang*. The male phoenix is called the *Feng* and the female is the *Huang*. Together they represent marital happiness.

ORIGIN : In China the dragon is a symbol of heaven. The artistry of jade came in subtle forms from neolithic cultures stretching from the mouth of the Yangtze (Liangzhu Culture) to Southeastern Mongolia. This very hard stone is cut following pure geometrical forms, often with harmoniously placed motifs and perfect finishings. The working of this material in ancient times could only be done by methods of friction, abrasion and polishing. The composite material of jade, which is by nature extremely hard, was clearly chosen based on its symbolic value of purity and its association with hardness, as well as various other values unique to the Chinese culture. Cultures which followed valued jade for its attributed property of protecting the body on its journey to the world of our ancestors, eventually to sit amongst the immortals.

MEASUREMENT : Length : 12 cm (4.7")

Police book registration n° : 1708.A