

# GALERIE GOLCONDA

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

## CERTIFICATE

### **SET OF TWELVE DIGNITARIES CHINA - SONG DYNASTY (960-1279)**

**MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE:** A series of twelve figures in light beige, unglazed porcelain. The pieces were hand-made with the knife technique, used to facet the bodies and the faces.

Each figure has a different expression, and also a different headdress, which each time has been personalized. Two holes around the elbows and on top of the headdress lead us to think that there had been additional ornamentation today lost.

**ORIGIN:** We know that the dignitaries during the Song period wore a ceremonial robe of different colours depending on their rank: purple for the high dignitaries, followed by vermilion for the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> ranks, green for the 7<sup>th</sup> and turquoise for the 8<sup>th</sup>. The son of the heavens himself wore a yellow ceremonial robe. The clothes were made of twelve pieces of fabric, in allusion to the twelve months. The number 12, symbol of the universe divides the sky, considered a cupola, into twelve sectors, the 12 signs of the zodiac.

**DIMENSIONS:** Height: between 20.4 cm and 21 cm/ between 7.874 Inches and 8.267 Inches – Width: 5 cm / 1.968 Inches – Thickness: 5 cm / 1.968 Inches.

**TEST:** supplied with a thermoluminescent test n°34270306 by laboratory Kotalla.

**CERTIFICATE:** supplied with an export licence issued by the French Ministry of Culture, numb. 156866.

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