

GALERIE GOLCONDA

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

CERTIFICATE

A WATCHTOWER CHINE - HAN DYNASTY (206 BC-220 AD)

MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE: This model of architecture has been built in terra-cotta and covered with a glaze containing plumbic which creates this colour is obtained thanks to oxide of copper. It is composed of four different elements moulded and assembled freely. As a consequence of its funerary stay, it has been superficially covered with a very thin deposit of calcar which gives this beautiful iridescent silver look to that piece. The basis is composed of a circular basin with flat rim. The superstructure is piled up on it vertically.

Well preserved, some restorations but no lacks.

ORIGIN: Old China. These towers were used in strategic areas, the last floor being the best place to be for observers. The platform underneath with its corbelled balcony was used for a defensive purpose, and archers were posted at the corners. On the basis, a symbolical bestiary of water is represented with ducks, frogs and fishes. These towers have a very strong emblematic significance, which will be used later with the creation of pagodas.

MEASURES: Height 77cm

TEST: Supplied with a thermoluminescent test by Laboratory Ralf Kotalla, test n° 05K080705.

PASSEPORT CULTUREL: supplied with an export licence issued by the French Ministry of Culture, numb. 121375.

MUSEOGRAPHY:

- a similar piece at the Musée Guimet Paris, Collection Jacques Polain n° MA 6085.
- a similar piece at the Metropolitan Museum of Art New York, Dr. and Mrs. John C. Weber gift, 1984, numb. 397ab.
- a similar piece at Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington-USA, under number F1907.68a-d.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: published in « *Collecting Masterpieces - Part one* » by Beryl Cavallini, at pages 48 et 49.

Police book registration N°: 220