

# GALERIE GOLCONDA

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

## CERTIFICATE

### **AN EXCELLENT BRONZE PING BOTTLE CHINA - HAN DYNASTY (206 BC- 220 AD)**

**MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE:** Alcohol bottle in Ping shape called “garlic clove” because of its long neck ending in a bulbous mouth like a lotus bud. Compressed globular body and tall foot ring. Another ring figures halfway down the neck.

The vase has probably been cast upside down on a compact earth core, a method that allows utility objects in bronze to remain light. Very beautiful green and brown coloured patina on the bronze with wide areas of red oxidation. Excellent state of preservation. The nice original polish has permitted for light corrosion.

**ORIGIN :** The garlic shape hu originated in the state of Ch'in in Shensi. From the warring state period varieties of these vases flourished as the straight-necked flat hu became relatively less common. It is now asserted that the ancient technique did not come from the Middle East or Europe, which relied on annealing, cold working and hammering for more than 3500 years, but from northern Mongolia. For more than 1500 years, Chinese people made bronzes using the piece-mould technique, a method with no parallel in the ancient world as the ceramic moulds are carved with sophisticated registers assembled around an interior clay core. Molten bronze was then poured into the space left. Once cooled and hardened, it was separated from its clay core, which had to be broken. The bronzes built with this method are still considered more beautiful and rarer, the technique remaining visible in the assemblage of the different parts. Only after the 5th cent. B.C did the Chinese start using the lost wax method even if up to the Han dynasty most great quality bronzes were still produced using the old method.

**DIMENSIONS:** height : 37cm/14,566 in – diameter : 25cm/9,842in

**CERTIFICATE:** supplied with an export licence issued by the French Ministry of Culture N° 147604 allowing this piece to travel worldwide.

**MUSEOGRAPHY:** a similar object is present in the National Palace Museum, Taipei with the description “plain vase with garlic-shaped mouth”

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:** published in *Collecting Masterpieces* Part One from Beryl Cavallini at page 186

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