

GALERIE GOLCONDA

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

CERTIFICATE

AN IMPORTANT VOTIVE COUNTRY HOUSE HAN DYNASTY (206 BC – AD 220)

MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE: Nice big country house in three parts from the Han dynasty. Conceived from several moulded elements freely assembled, this Mingki of a Han dignitary's house, very realistic with its balconies and roofs, was made of grey-tinted terracotta typical to the period. Thick traces of hazelnut-coloured mud are still stuck to it. The base is composed of a courtyard with a gate. On this kiosk, the superstructures are placed vertically. Note the size of the roofs, combined with the tiles, and the shape of the courtyard in front, which must have served for the animals.

Good state of preservation, no missing parts, some old customary restoration work done.

ORIGIN: In ancient China, it was customary to have built, during one's lifetime, houses very similar to those that one lived in, in order to take them along in the hereafter by having them placed in the graves. According to traditional Chinese thinking, people of a high social rank had two souls. One stayed in the tomb with the body, the other went to the great beyond but could come back. They would then find again the marks of their social status thanks to the ritual funerary objects placed in the sepulchre.

Those fortified houses that also served for defence took on, under the Han Dynasty, strong symbolic meaning that would later give birth to the pagodas.

DIMENSIONS: Height: 73 cm / 28,740'' - Width: 37 cm / 14.566''
Depth: 40 cm / 15.748''

THERMOLUMINESCENT TEST: by Ralf Kotalla laboratory N° 01K140205 confirms the dating.

EXPORT LICENCE: supplied with a passeport culturel issued by the French Ministry of Culture n° 126112.

MUSEOGRAPHY: a similar object is present in the Musée Guimet in Paris

Police book registration N° 567