

GALERIE GOLCONDA

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

CERTIFICATE

RARE XIANBEI CAPARISONNED HORSE OF AMBER-COLOR NORTHERN WEI DYNASTY (AD 386-589)

MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE : Horse in orangey terra-cotta with amber covering obtained from ferrous powders. The horse is represented with its armour, made of a composition of rhinoceros leather cut in small rectangles stitched together. The saddle is characteristic of the time: set on the armour but not attached to the horse, and still made of wood. This style of representation is called *Xianbei*.

Excellent state of preservation. Possible small ancient repairs.

ORIGIN : The Northern Wei unified the country of Mongolia over the central plains of China and reopened the Silk Route. This opened the way to great prosperity, the contact with the Byzantine and Persian cultures allowing for the arrival of the Arab horse up until then unknown. However, our horse is rather of the pony type of Mongolia. These representations of horses in armour are very rare.

DIMENSIONS: Height: 30cm/11.81" – Length: 32cm/12.6"

TEST: thermo luminescent test from Oxford numb. C207j83 confirms the dating.

CERTIFICATE: supplied with an export licence issued by the French Ministry of Culture n° C207j83

MUSEOGRAPHY: this horse is very similar to those of the murals in the caves of Mogao near Dunhuang.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: published in "*Collecting Masterpieces*" Part One, written by Beryl Cavallini at page 253

Police book registration N°: 681