

GALERIE GOLCONDA

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

CERTIFICATE

TWO DECORATIVE BASIN PANELS CHINA - MING DYNASTY (AD 1368-1644)

MATERIAL AND METHOD: set of two rectangular panels of grey terracotta with green and yellow glaze, with an image moulded in high relief of plump children swimming half-naked in a vegetated basin. They are dressed in a simple scarf with bracelets around their wrists and ankles. One of them is wearing a short apron, the habit of children.

Excellent state of preservation.

ORIGIN: circa the 2nd century, Buddhism imprints its mark and philosophy to the representation of the child, passing from a miniature adult to a smiling chubby toddler. This is a symbol of abundance and wealth, reminding of the children living on lotuses in the paradise of the future Maitreya Buddha, represented in China by his guise as a laughing monk with a large belly and traditionally accompanied by children. From the Song Dynasty (AD 960-1279) we see the aesthetic representation of the child evolve, moving away from Buddhist criteria, making them the symbol of fertility and of good news for male offspring.

MEASUREMENTS: - panel 1: L.47.7cm (18.7")–H.26.5cm (10.4")–W.12 cm (4.7")

- panel 2 : L.46.5cm (18.3")–H.25.5cm (10")–W.10.5cm (4.1")

THERMOLUMINESCENCE TEST performed by QED Laboratory, which confirms the dating of this piece. Test n° QED1415/FC-0225.

CULTURAL PASSPORT issued by the French Ministry of Culture. Passport n° 167427.

MUSEOGRAPHY: a brick of similar size and technique is exhibited at the Guimet Museum in Paris: Grandidier Collection, G 5438, China Shanxi, 16th - 17th century.

Police book registration N°: 792A