



## China - Pair Of Grand Dignitaries On Pedestal - Ming Dynasty - T1



4 000 EUR

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Terracotta

Length : 14 cm

Width : 11,5 cm

Height : 48,5 et 48 cm

### Description

A pair of dignitaries on pedestals with their clothes tied at the waist. One of them carries a wooden object on his shoulder (stool?). Ming dynasty terracotta dignitary figurines are remarkable works of art that illustrate the status and importance of elites in Chinese society at the time. These figurines, often placed on pedestals, represent officers, nobles, or other influential figures and are generally characterized by minute details in clothing, hairstyles, and accessories. Dignitaries are often depicted with richly decorated clothing, intricate patterns, and bright colors, reflecting their high status. Ming period artisans excelled in painting and sculpture, which is evident in the fine detail. The figurines can be depicted in majestic poses, often with facial expressions that convey authority and dignity.

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This contributes to their symbolic function as representatives of power and prestige. The bases on which these dignitaries are placed add an additional dimension to the work. They may be decorated with motifs or inscriptions that reinforce the status of the figurine. Like many other Ming Dynasty terracotta figurines, these were often intended for funerary contexts, serving to accompany the deceased to the afterlife and to secure their status in the other world. These figurines are not only objects of art, but they also offer valuable insight into the social hierarchy, beliefs, and cultural practices of Ming China. They demonstrate the importance given to rituals and the representation of power in the society of the time. A thermoluminescence test accompanied the objects confirming their dating. The glazes are obtained by mixing metal oxides with feldspar-based varnishes fired at a low temperature, the iron giving the yellow and red, and the copper the green. Origin: China. Dimensions: Height: 48.5 and 48 cm; Length: 14 cm; Width: 11.5 cm. Period: Ming Dynasty (1368 - 1644). Condition: Very good condition, nice patina on the glaze. Provenance: Former Belgian collection