# THE BARAKAT GALLERY

#### Chinese Art

Han Horses Han Horse and Riders 206 BC - 220 AD



# Han Dynasty

The Han Dynasty, like the Zhou before it, is divided into two distinct periods, the Western Han (206 B.C.-9 A.D.) and the Eastern Han (23-220 A.D.) with a brief interlude. Towards the end of the Western period, a series of weak emperors ruled the throne, controlled from behind the scenes by Wang Mang and Huo Guang, both relatives of empresses. They both exerted enormous influence over the government and when the last emperor suddenly passed away, Mang became ruling advisor, seizing this opportunity to declare his own Dynasty, the Xin, or "New." However, another popular uprising began joined by the members of the Liu clan, the family that ruled the Han Dynasty, the Xin came to a quick end and the Eastern Han was established in its place with its capital at Loyang (Chang'an, the capital of the Western Han, was completely destroyed).

However, even as Chinese influence spread across Southeastern Asia into new lands, the Eastern Han Dynasty was unable to recreate the glories of the Western Period. In fact, this period can be characterized by a bitter power struggle amongst a group of five consortial clans. These families sought to control the young, weak emperors with their court influence. Yet, as the emperors became distrustful of the rising power of the clans, they relied upon their eunuchs to defend them, often eliminating entire families at a time. During the Western Han, the Emperor was viewed as the center of the universe. However, this philosophy slowly disintegrated under the weak, vulnerable rulers of the Eastern Han, leading many scholars and officials to abandon the court. Eventually, the power of the Han would completely erode, ending with its dissolution and the beginning of the period known as the "Three Kingdoms."



## Han Polychrome Torso of a Horse



H.017 Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Collection: Chinese Medium: Terracotta

This pottery figurine is sculpted to show the strong, bold line and muscularity of the horse. Once part of an assembled set, this horse bears the characteristics associated with the famed Heavenly Horse of Fergana. Its long muscular neck, arched mane, stylistically curved snout, flared nostrils and gaping mouth depict a horse of regal origin. The figurine is painted in red pigment with designs representing saddle and bridle painted on. White and pink swirled sashes and ribbons are drawn onto the body, complimenting the animal's own natural beauty and grace.

Valued for its speed, strength and beauty, the horse has been one of the most admired animals in China. The horse has enabled man to swiftly transport massive armies into distant and neighboring territories in order to secure vast wealth and land. According to lore, there existed a horse so powerful and beautiful that it was believed to be bequeathed from heaven. In early China, owning a horse required wealth and status, eventually becoming as a sign of one's social standing. Equestrian activities only encourage the indulgence of the wealthy few who owned horses. Naturally in Chinese art, the horse became a favorite subject of artists who try to create visual representations of the animal that capture both its vitality and presence. During the Han Dynasty, the horse was rendered in miniature sculptural form to be interred with the dead. It was believed that the animal could assume its powers and assist the deceased in the dangerous journey to the other world. This custom answered to the needs of a particular belief system regarding life after death and the spiritual world. - (H.017)

#### Han Polychrome Torso of a Horse



H.018

Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions:

20" (50.8cm) high x 7" (17.8cm) wide

Collection: Chinese

Medium: Painted Terracotta

Location: Great Britain

This pottery figurine is painted in blue pigment with red, criss-crossing fittings outlined in white painted onto the body of the horse rather than molded. The head of the horse is adjoined to a separate "body" piece at the neck; the separate leg attachments are missing. The horse's strenuous expression is vividly portrayed in the fine sculpturing of bulging veins and eyes, muscular jaws, wide-open flared nostrils, and gaping mouth bearing clenched teeth. Though rigid in form, the sculpture successfully conveys the horse's solid stance and admirable attributes of resoluteness and power. Valued for its speed, strength and beauty, the horse has been one of the most admired animals in China. The horse has enabled man to swiftly transport massive armies into distant and neighboring territories in order to secure vast wealth and land. According to lore, there existed a horse so powerful and beautiful that it was believed to be bequeathed from heaven. In early China, owning a horse required wealth and status, eventually becoming as a sign of one's social standing. Equestrian activities only encourage the indulgence of the wealthy few who owned horses. Naturally in Chinese art, the horse became a favorite subject of artists who try to create visual representations of the animal that capture both its vitality and presence. During the Han Dynasty, the horse was rendered in miniature sculptural form to be interred with the dead. It was believed that the animal could assume its powers and assist the deceased in the dangerous journey to the otherworld. This custom answered to the needs of a particular belief system regarding life after death and the spiritual world. - (H.018)

#### Han Polychrome Torso of a Horse



H.020

Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 13.625" (34.6cm) high x

18.125" (46.0cm) wide

Collection: Chinese

Medium: Painted Terracotta

The body of this horse figurine is painted in a dark red pigment, highlighted in areas around the nostrils, eyes, inner ears, and mouth in bright red. Its body trappings--bridle and reins--are painted in bright red, stylistically patterned in a criss-cross head piece and a diamond shaped chest ornament that ties near the saddle. The saddle is colored white with bright red trimming. The horse's massive and solid appearance is accentuated by the anima'ls graceful curves yet wide, sturdy form. The tappered jawline gives the appearance of a "hinged" mouth, adding to expressionistic features of this horse whose bright white teeth gleam against the hanging flesh of the lip. Valued for its speed, strength and beauty, the horse has been one of the most admired animals in China. The horse has enabled man to swiftly transport massive armies into distant and neighboring territories in order to secure vast wealth and land. According to lore, there existed a horse so powerful and beautiful that it was believed to be bequeathed from heaven. In early China, owning a horse required wealth and status, eventually becoming as a sign of one's social standing. Equestrian activities only encourage the indulgence of the wealthy few who owned horses. Naturally in Chinese art, the horse became a favorite subject of artists who try to create visual representations of the animal that capture both its vitality and presence. During the Han Dynasty, the horse was rendered in miniature sculptural form to be interred with the dead. It was believed that the animal could assume its powers and assist the deceased in the dangerous journey to the otherworld. This custom answered to the needs of a particular belief system regarding life after death and the spiritual world. - (H.020)

#### Han Polychrome Torso of a Horse



H.501

Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 13.5" (34.3cm) high

Catalogue: V17

Collection: Chinese Style: Han Dynasty Medium: Terracotta Location: Great Britain This powerfully modeled torso of a horse is painted with a full harness in red and white pigment. The saddle is outlined in blue paint and decorated with red circular designs. Staring eyes, bared teeth and flared nostrils, the horse's expression is full of ferocity. With its ears pulled back, ridge of the nose sharply angled, and chest thrusting forward, we can imagine this horse magnificently galloping into battle, determined as is his rider, to triumph and conquer.

The legendary "heavenly horses" of the West intrigued the Han emperor who set out on a mission to obtain these gallant horses that, according to legend, sweat blood. The horse became a symbol of military prowess, strength, and vitality. It was at the foundation upon which rests the army. Along the roads to the imperial tombs of the Han dynasty, recreations of horse in ceramic were placed to fortify the entrance as were recreations of chariots, riders and thousands of foot soldiers. This thirst for immortality is what brought about this elaborate burial custom for it was believed that the deceased needed to be protected in their journey to paradise. - (H.501)

## Han Terracotta Sculpture of a Horse



H.518

Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 10.25" (26.0cm) high

Catalogue: V17

Collection: Chinese Medium: Terracotta

With earthen residue adhering to its surface, this pottery tomb figure of a horse conveys a sense of liveliness through the curvature of the body and facial expression. Its gentle smile and lightly defined eyes give the impression of serenity while its solid, shortened body, saddled and assuming a stance of readiness, indicate its utility in battle. Horses were greatly prized during the Han. Expansionist policies coupled with the growing threat of the Xiongnu tribes along the northern borders of China during the Eastern Han necessitated the acquisition of superior horses in order to achieve a peerless military force. After concerted military and political efforts, the Han rulers succeeded in ensuring a supply of superb horses from the region of Fergana to the west of China. Referred to as "celestial horses," this breed of horses captured the imagination of artisans whose depiction of them vary significantly. The exaggerated arch of the neck, prominent forelock that extends out between the ears, and cocked hind leg are characteristic of the portrayal of this horse. However, the thick haunches and stout, sturdy appearance of the body reveal the craftsman sensitive observation to the muscularity of this breed. It is surely a masterpiece of its time. - (H.518)

## Han Polychrome Sculpture of a Horse



H.632 Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 17" (43.2cm) high

Collection: Chinese

Medium: Painted Terracotta

This pottery figurine is sculpted to show the strong, bold line and muscularity of the horse. Once part of an assembled set, this horse bears the characteristics associated with the famed Heavenly Horse of Fergana. According to lore, there existed a horse so powerful and beautiful that it was bequeathed from heaven. This gorgeous horse almost appears to have been sculpted in a divine workshop. Its long muscular neck, arched mane, stylistically curved snout, flared nostrils and gaping mouth depict a horse of regal origin. The figurine is painted in dark red pigment with designs representing saddle and bridle painted on. White and light red swirled sashes and ribbons are drawn onto the body, complimenting the animal's own natural beauty and grace. Valued for its speed, strength and beauty, the horse has been one of the most admired animals in China. The horse has enabled man to swiftly transport massive armies into distant and neighboring territories in order to secure vast wealth and land. In early China, owning a horse required wealth and status, eventually becoming as a sign of one's social standing. Equestrian activities only encourage the indulgence of the wealthy few who owned horses. Naturally in Chinese art, the horse became a favorite subject of artists who try to create visual representations of the animal that capture both its vitality and presence. During the Han Dynasty, the horse was rendered in miniature sculptural form to be interred with the dead. It was believed that the animal could assume its powers and assist the deceased in the dangerous journey to the next world. This custom answered to the needs of a particular belief system regarding life after death and the spiritual world. - (H.632)



H.725 Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 10.75" (27.3cm) high

Collection: Chinese

Medium: Painted Terracotta



H.726 Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 11.5" (29.2cm) high

Collection: Chinese

Medium: Painted Terracotta



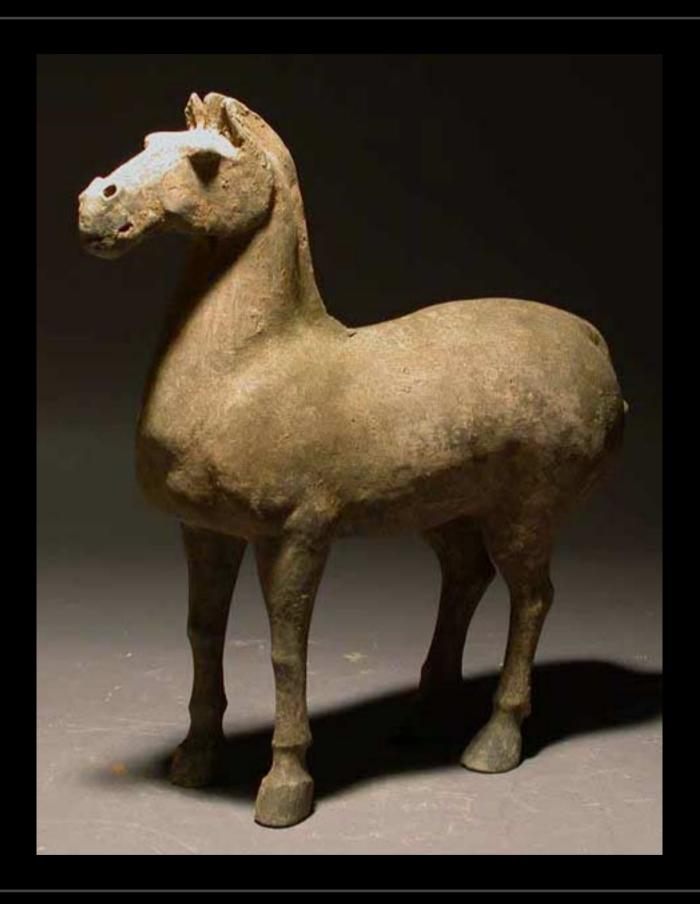
H.727 Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 11" (27.9cm) high

Collection: Chinese

Medium: Painted Terracotta



H.729 Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 10.75" (27.3cm) high

Collection: Chinese Style: Han Dynasty

Medium: Painted Terracotta



H.731 Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 11" (27.9cm) high

Collection: Chinese

Medium: Painted Terracotta



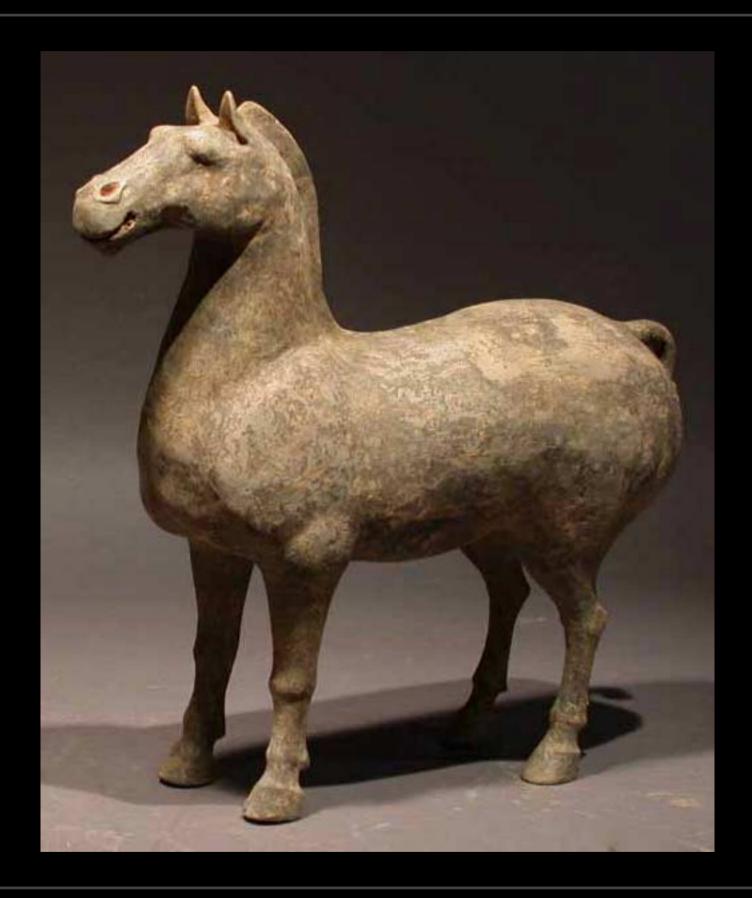
H.732 Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 10.75" (27.3cm) high

Collection: Chinese

Medium: Painted Terracotta



H.733 Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 10.75" (27.3cm) high

Collection: Chinese

Medium: Painted Terracotta

The impact of the horse on the history of China cannot be underestimated. In fact, the ancient unification and expansion of the Chinese Empire was due in large part to this majestic creature. Their rapid mobility enabled quick correspondence between far away provinces, allowing the establishment of a centralized power. Likewise, the military role of horses aided in the conquest and submission of distant lands. The influence of the horse on the history and culture of China can be viewed, in part, through the artistic legacy of this great civilization. Believed to be relatives of mythological dragons, a theory reflecting their sacred status, horses were glorified and revered in sculpture, painting, and literature. During the unification of China under the Han Dynasty, bands of mounted nomadic warriors from the north threatened the country. In order to thwart their attacks, the Chinese imported stronger, faster steeds from Central Asia (as opposed to the native Mongol ponies) eventually leading to the creation of the Silk Road. In ancient China, owning a horse required wealth and status. Eventually, they became signs of one's social standing. Equestrian activities such as polo further encouraged the indulgence of the wealthy few who owned horses. This terracotta sculpture of a horse captures the bold lines and strong muscularity of the horse. During the Han Dynasty, the horse was rendered in miniature sculptural form specifically in order to be interred with the dead. It was believed that the sculpted version could assume the powers of its living counterpart in the afterlife and assist the deceased in the dangerous journey to the next world. This custom catered to the needs of a particular belief system regarding life after death and the spiritual world. Not only is this sculpture an ancient answer to an eternal question that continues to plague us even today, but it is also a stunning work of art of tremendous historical and cultural significance. - (H.725) - (H.726) - (H.727) - (H.728) - (H.729) - (H.731) - (H.732) - (H. 733)

#### Painted Pottery Torso of a Horse



LA.563

Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions:

9" (22.9cm) high x 11.5" (29.2cm) wide

Collection: Chinese Art

Style: Han dynasty

Medium: Earthenware

Location: Great Britain

The most magnificent horses, immortalised in Chinese literature and the visual arts, were the Ferghana horses introduced into central China from the west and first mentioned by Han Wudi's envoy, Zhang Qian during his campaign against the Xiongnu in Central Asia. These so-called 'celestial' horses, sometimes called 'blood-sweating' horses, were known for their speed, power and stamina. It was these horses that the Chinese armies needed to challenge the cavalry of the barbarian tribes who attacked the western and northern borders of the empire. The Han dynasty Emperor Wudi (r. 141-87 BC) therefore ordered a costly expedition to Ferghana (part of modern Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyztan) to obtain these remarkable horses. Such horses then provided the inspiration for the large, spirited, prancing Han dynasty earthenware burial horse depictions.

Significantly, the first of the Eight Trigrams of Chinese divination is linked to the horse. According to Chinese mythology the trigrams (symbols made up of three lines, broken or unbroken) were devised by the legendary Emperor Fu Xi from the markings on the shell of a tortoise. These trigrams were taken to symbolise the evolution of nature and to represent its cyclical changes. According to the famous Yi Jing or I Ching (Book of Changes, believed to have been compiled 13th-12th century BC), the first trigram of three unbroken lines would represent Heaven, the south, inexhaustible strength and the horse. Many early Chinese writers used real and mythological horses as symbols of strength and endurance and their similitudes must have inspired the creation of beautiful burial mingqi. For instance, the Shan Hai Jing (Classic of Mountains and Seas) describes a horse with a white silken body, golden eyes and vermilion mane, called Ji Liang. It proclaims that he who rides upon the 'celestial' horse will live for a thousand years. On the other hand, in his Zi Shuo Si (Miscellaneous Opinions) Han Yu used horses to exemplify admirable qualities, and mentioned horses able to gallop a thousand li (Chinese miles). A young man with strength and endurance could be complimented by being called a qian li zhu (a thousand li colt).

It is then not surprising that horses appeared prominently during the Han period in burial contexts, mostly concentrated in the north and south-central areas. The majority of them was painted with pigments and unglazed, being either sculpted or moulded, just like ours. Furthermore, our example almost explicitly seems to be imbued with this celestial connotation, with his fluid abstract swirling decoration on the pelt, evoking the swiftness of a galloping celestial horse. Originally four wooden legs would have been inserted under the belly in the pre-moulded holes and secured with small pegs; also, his tail and ears would have been made of leather and attached in the sunken depressions on the head and back, his vivid look and incredibly refined decoration so intensely capturing the extraordinary beliefs of an era. - (LA.563)

## Han Terracotta Sculpture of a Unicorn-Horse



H.518a Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Collection: Chinese Location: United States

With earthen residue adhering to its surface, this pottery tomb figure of a horse conveys a sense of liveliness through the curvature of the body and facial expression. Its gentle smile and lightly defined eyes give the impression of serenity while its solid, shortened body, saddled and assuming a stance of readiness, indicate its utility in battle. Horses were greatly prized during the Han. Expansionist policies coupled with the growing threat of the Xiongnu tribes along the northern borders of China during the Eastern Han necessitated the acquisition of superior horses in order to achieve a peerless military force. After concerted military and political efforts, the Han rulers succeeded in ensuring a supply of superb horses from the region of Fergana to the west of China. Referred to as "celestial horses," this breed of horses captured the imagination of artisans whose depiction of them vary significantly. The exaggerated arch of the neck, prominent forelock that extends out between the ears, and cocked hind leg are characteristic of the portrayal of this horse. However, the thick haunches and stout, sturdy appearance of the body reveal the craftsman sensitive observation to the muscularity of this breed. It is surely a masterpiece of its time. - (H.518a)

#### Han Terracotta Horse



SP.578

Origin: China

Circa: 100 BC to 100 AD

Dimensions: 11.75" (29.8cm) high

Collection: Chinese Art

Style: Han

Medium: Terracotta

#### Han Dynasty Green-Glazed Sichuan Horse



DL.990

Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 49.21" (125.0cm) high x

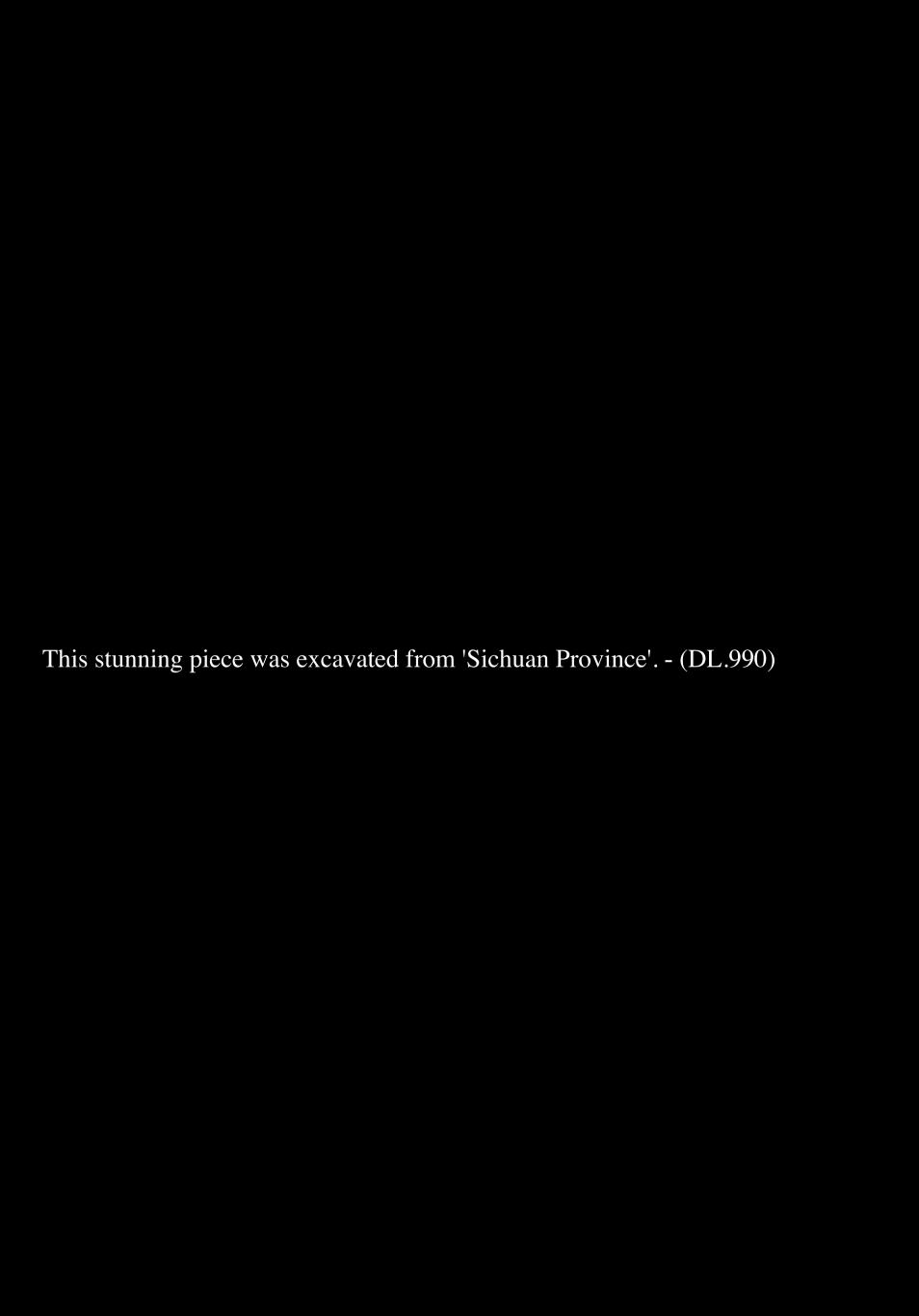
45.28" (115.0cm) wide

Collection: Chinese

Medium: Glazed Terracotta

Condition: Extra Fine

Location: UAE



#### Han Painted Terracotta Horse



CK.0307

Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions:

11.6" (29.5cm) high x 15" (38.1cm) wide

Collection: Chinese Art

Style: Han Dynasty

Medium: Painted Terracotta

Location: UAE

The impact of the horse on the history of China cannot be underestimated. In fact, the ancient unification and expansion of the Chinese Empire was due in large part to this majestic creature. Their rapid mobility enabled quick correspondence between far away provinces, allowing the establishment of a centralized power. Likewise, the military role of horses aided in the conquest and submission of distant lands. The influence of the horse on the history and culture of China can be viewed, in part, through the artistic legacy of this great civilization. Believed to be relatives of mythological dragons, a theory reflecting their sacred status, horses were glorified and revered in sculpture, painting, and literature. During the unification of China under the Han Dynasty, bands of mounted nomadic warriors from the north threatened the country. In order to thwart their attacks, the Chinese imported stronger, faster steeds from Central Asia (as opposed to the native Mongol ponies) eventually leading to the creation of the Silk Road. In ancient China, owning a horse required wealth and status. Eventually, they became signs of one's social standing. Equestrian activities such as polo further encouraged the indulgence of the wealthy few who owned horses. This terracotta sculpture of a horse captures the bold lines and strong muscularity of the horse. During the Han Dynasty, the horse was rendered in miniature sculptural form specifically in order to be interred with the dead. It was believed that the sculpted version could assume the powers of its living counterpart in the afterlife and assist the deceased in the dangerous journey to the next world. This custom catered to the needs of a particular belief system regarding life after death and the spiritual world. Not only is this sculpture an ancient answer to an eternal question that continues to plague us even today, but it is also a stunning work of art of tremendous historical and cultural significance. - (CK.0307)

#### Han Dynasty Painted Pottery Horse



RP.156 Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 BC

Dimensions: 10.25" (26.0cm) high x

13.25" (33.7cm) wide

Collection: Chinese Art

Medium: Terracotta

Location: UAE

This beautifully rendered Han pottery seated horse represents one of the prized possessions of an elite member of Han society. Elaborate purple scrollwork ripples over the horse's white body while faint remnants of a once boldly depicted brown and orange saddle reveal that the work still retains much of its original polychromy. The mouth of this elegant creature is left slightly ajar as if to symbolize movement, expression, and life.

Valued for their speed, strength and beauty horses were one of the most admired animals in China. According to Chinese tradition, there existed a horse so powerful and beautiful that it was believed to have come from heaven. In early China, owning a horse required wealth and status and eventually became a sign of one's social standing. Equestrian activities encouraged the indulgence of the select few who privilege enough to own horses. The horse thus became a favorite subject of artists who tried to recreate visual representations of this powerful animal. During the Han Dynasty, the horse was rendered in miniature sculptural form and buried with the deceased in order to aid them during the perilous journey to the afterlife.

The elegance and refinement of this Han pottery seated horse transports us back in time to appreciate the beauty and strength of this powerful creature. Such a work is a precious addition to any collection of Chinese Art.

- (RP.156)

# Han Horse and Riders

The great influence of the horse throughout the history of China cannot be underestimated. In fact, the ancient expansion of the Chinese Empire was due in large part to the horse. The rapid mobility of horse allowed for quick communication between far away provinces. Likewise, the military role of horses aided in the conquest and submission of distant lands. The importance of the horse in the history and culture of China can be viewed, in part, through the artistic legacy of this great civilization. In sculpture, painting, and literature, horses were glorified and revered. Horses were believed to be relatives of mythological dragons, reflecting their sacred status within society. During the unification of China under the Han Dynasty, bands of mounted nomadic warriors from the north threatened the country. In order to thwart their attacks, the Chinese sought to import stronger, faster steeds from Central Asia (as opposed to the Mongol ponies used by the invaders), eventually leading to the creation of the Silk Road.



PF.6169 Collection: Chinese

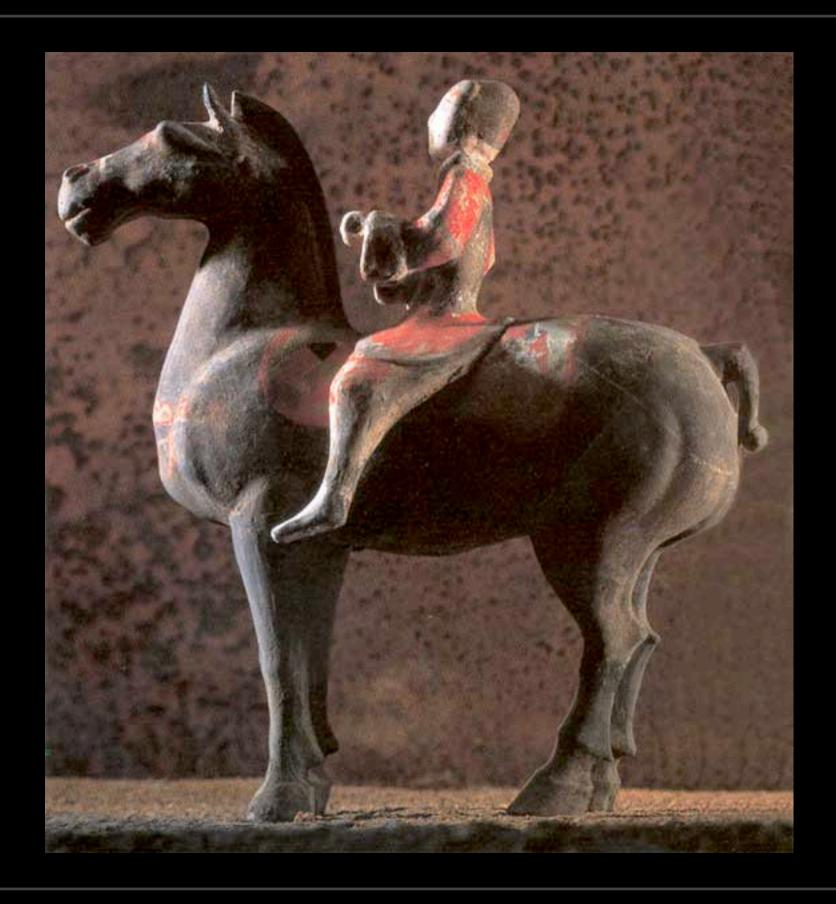
Origin: China
Style: Western Han Dynasty

Circa: 206 BC to 9 AD

Medium: Painted Terracotta

Dimensions: 12" (30.5cm) high Location: United States

The great influence of the horse throughout the history of China cannot be underestimated. In fact, the ancient expansion of the Chinese Empire was due in large part to the horse. The rapid mobility of horse allowed for quick communication between far away provinces. Likewise, the military role of horses aided in the conquest and submission of distant lands. The importance of the horse in the history and culture of China can be viewed, in part, through the artistic legacy of this great civilization. In sculpture, painting, and literature, horses were glorified and revered. Horses were believed to be related to mythological dragons, reflecting their sacred status within society. During the unification of China under the Han Dynasty, bands of mounted nomadic warriors from the north threatened the country. In order to thwart their attacks, the Chinese sought to import stronger, faster steeds from Central Asia (as opposed to the Mongol ponies used by the invaders), eventually leading to the creation of the Silk Road. This small sculpture of a mounted soldier reveals the crucial military role of the horse. When compared to the diminutive stature of the rider, the importance of the horse becomes readily apparent. This creature provided security and strength, allowing the empire to secure its borders and expand its influences across Central Asia. The magnificent regalia of the horse, including a brilliantly painted saddle in red and purple, reflect the respect this animal received. The warrior as well is gorgeously decorated with a tunic and gray chest armor. He would have originally held a wooden spear or bow in between his hands that has rotted away over the centuries. This remarkable sculpture is a creation of immense cultural and historical significance that attests to the critical role of the horse in ancient Chinese civilization. - (PF.6169)



PF.6168

Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 9 AD

Dimensions: 11.5" (29.2cm) high

Collection: Chinese

Medium: Painted Terracotta

The great influence of the horse throughout the history of China cannot be underestimated. In fact, the ancient expansion of the Chinese Empire was due in large part to the horse. The rapid mobility of horse allowed for quick communication between far away provinces. Likewise, the military role of horses aided in the conquest and submission of distant lands. The importance of the horse in the history and culture of China can be viewed, in part, through the artistic legacy of this great civilization. In sculpture, painting, and literature, horses were glorified and revered. Horses were believed to be related to mythological dragons, reflecting their sacred status within society. During the unification of China under the Han Dynasty, bands of mounted nomadic warriors from the north threatened the country. In order to thwart their attacks, the Chinese sought to import stronger, faster steeds from Central Asia (as opposed to the Mongol ponies used by the invaders), eventually leading to the creation of the Silk Road. This small sculpture of a mounted soldier reveals the crucial military role of the horse. When compared to the diminutive stature of the rider, the importance of the horse becomes readily apparent. This creature provided security and strength, allowing the empire to secure its borders and expand its influences across Central Asia. The magnificent regalia of the horse, including a brilliantly painted saddle in red and green/gold, reflect the respect this animal received. The warrior as well is gorgeously decorated with a painted red tunic and gray chest armor. He would have originally held a wooden spear or bow in between his hands that has rotted away over the centuries. This remarkable sculpture is a creation of immense cultural and historical significance that attests to the critical role of the horse in ancient Chinese civilization. - (PF.6168)



H.756 Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 11.5" (29.2cm) high

Collection: Chinese

Medium: Painted Terracotta

This small sculpture of a mounted soldier reveals the crucial military role of the horse. When compared to the diminutive stature of the rider, the importance of the horse becomes readily apparent. This creature provided security and strength, allowing the empire to secure its borders and expand its influences across Central Asia. The magnificent regalia of the horse, including a painted purple saddle blanket, reflect the respect this animal received. The warrior as well is gorgeously decorated with a painted red tunic and gray chest armor. A quiver is visible attached to his back. He would have originally held a wooden bow in between his hands that has rotted away over the centuries. This remarkable sculpture is a creation of immense cultural and historical significance that attests to the critical role of the horse in ancient Chinese civilization. - (H.756)



H.758 Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 11.5" (29.2cm) high

Collection: Chinese

Medium: Painted Terracotta

This small sculpture of a mounted soldier reveals the crucial military role of the horse. When compared to the diminutive stature of the rider, the importance of the horse becomes readily apparent. This creature provided security and strength, allowing the empire to secure its borders and expand its influences across Central Asia. The magnificent regalia of the horse, including a painted white saddle blanket, reflect the respect this animal received. The warrior as well is gorgeously decorated with a painted red tunic, green pants, and gray chest armor. A quiver is visible attached to his back. He would have originally held a wooden bow in between his hands that has rotted away over the centuries. This remarkable sculpture is a creation of immense cultural and historical significance that attests to the critical role of the horse in ancient Chinese civilization. - (H.758)



H.900 Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 12.5" (31.8cm) high

Collection: Chinese

Medium: Painted Terracotta

This sculpture of a mounted soldier reveals the crucial military role of the horse. When compared to the stature of the rider, the importance of the horse becomes readily apparent. This creature provided security and strength, allowing the empire to secure its borders and expand its influences across Central Asia. The magnificent regalia of the white horse, including a green saddle blanket, reflect the respect this animal received. The warrior as well is gorgeously decorated with a painted orange tunic and gray chest armor. He would have originally held a wooden bow in between his hands that has rotted away over the centuries. This remarkable sculpture is a creation of immense cultural and historical significance that attests to the critical role of the horse in ancient Chinese civilization. - (H.900)



H.903 Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 12.25" (31.1cm) high

Collection: Chinese Style: Han Dynasty

Medium: Painted Terracotta Location: United States This sculpture of a mounted soldier reveals the crucial military role of the horse. When compared to the stature of the rider, the importance of the horse becomes readily apparent. This creature provided security and strength, allowing the empire to secure its borders and expand its influences across Central Asia. The magnificent regalia of the white horse, including a blue and orange blanket, reflect the respect this animal received. The warrior as well is gorgeously decorated with a painted orange tunic and gray chest armor. He would have originally held a wooden bow or spear in between his hands that has rotted away over the centuries. This remarkable sculpture is a creation of immense cultural and historical significance that attests to the critical role of the horse in ancient Chinese civilization. - (H.903)



H.898

Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 12.25" (31.1cm) high

Collection: Chinese

Medium: Painted Terracotta

This sculpture of a mounted soldier reveals the crucial military role of the horse. When compared to the stature of the rider, the importance of the horse becomes readily apparent. This creature provided security and strength, allowing the empire to secure its borders and expand its influences across Central Asia. The magnificent regalia of the white horse, including a green and orange saddle blanket, reflect the respect this animal received. The warrior as well is gorgeously decorated with a painted orange tunic and gray chest armor. He would have originally held a wooden bow or spear in between his hands that has rotted away over the centuries. This remarkable sculpture is a creation of immense cultural and historical significance that attests to the critical role of the horse in ancient Chinese civilization. - (H.898)



H.904 Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 12.25" (31.1cm) high

Collection: Chinese

Medium: Painted Terracotta

This sculpture of a mounted soldier reveals the crucial military role of the horse. When compared to the stature of the rider, the importance of the horse becomes readily apparent. This creature provided security and strength, allowing the empire to secure its borders and expand its influences across Central Asia. The magnificent regalia of the white horse, including a blue, tan, and orange saddle blanket, reflect the respect this animal received. The warrior as well is gorgeously decorated with a painted orange tunic and gray chest armor. He would have originally held a wooden bow or spear in between his hands that has rotted away over the centuries. This remarkable sculpture is a creation of immense cultural and historical significance that attests to the critical role of the horse in ancient Chinese civilization. - (H.904)



H.894

Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 12.5" (31.8cm) high

Collection: Chinese

Medium: Painted Terracotta

This sculpture of a mounted soldier reveals the crucial military role of the horse. When compared to the stature of the rider, the importance of the horse becomes readily apparent. This creature provided security and strength, allowing the empire to secure its borders and expand its influences across Central Asia. The magnificent regalia of the dark gray horse, including a white saddle blanket with orange highlights, reflect the respect this animal received. The warrior as well is gorgeously decorated with a painted orange tunic and gray chest armor. He would have originally held a wooden bow or spear in between his hands that has rotted away over the centuries. This remarkable sculpture is a creation of immense cultural and historical significance that attests to the critical role of the horse in ancient Chinese civilization. - (H.894)



H.899

Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 12" (30.5cm) high

Collection: Chinese

Medium: Painted Terracotta

This sculpture of a mounted soldier reveals the crucial military role of the horse. When compared to the stature of the rider, the importance of the horse becomes readily apparent. This creature provided security and strength, allowing the empire to secure its borders and expand its influences across Central Asia. The magnificent regalia of the white horse, including a white saddle blanket with orange and blue highlights, reflect the respect this animal received. The warrior as well is gorgeously decorated with a painted orange tunic, green pants, and gray chest armor. He would have originally held a wooden bow or spear in between his hands that has rotted away over the centuries. This remarkable sculpture is a creation of immense cultural and historical significance that attests to the critical role of the horse in ancient Chinese civilization. - (H.899)



H.895

Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 12.5" (31.8cm) high

Collection: Chinese

Medium: Painted Terracotta

This sculpture of a mounted soldier reveals the crucial military role of the horse. When compared to the stature of the rider, the importance of the horse becomes readily apparent. This creature provided security and strength, allowing the empire to secure its borders and expand its influences across Central Asia. The magnificent regalia of the dark gray horse, including a green saddle blanket with orange highlights, reflect the respect this animal received. The warrior as well is gorgeously decorated with a painted orange tunic and gray chest armor. He would have originally held a wooden bow or spear in between his hands that has rotted away over the centuries. This remarkable sculpture is a creation of immense cultural and historical significance that attests to the critical role of the horse in ancient Chinese civilization. - (H.895)



H.893 Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 12.75" (32.4cm) high

Collection: Chinese

Medium: Painted Terracotta

This sculpture of a mounted soldier reveals the crucial military role of the horse. When compared to the stature of the rider, the importance of the horse becomes readily apparent. This creature provided security and strength, allowing the empire to secure its borders and expand its influences across Central Asia. The magnificent regalia of the dark gray horse, including a white saddle blanket with orange highlights, reflect the respect this animal received. The warrior as well is gorgeously decorated with a painted orange tunic and gray chest armor. He would have originally held a wooden bow or spear in between his hands that has rotted away over the centuries. This remarkable sculpture is a creation of immense cultural and historical significance that attests to the critical role of the horse in ancient Chinese civilization. - (H.893)



H.889

Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 12.25" (31.1cm) high

Collection: Chinese Style: Han Dynasty

Medium: Painted Terracotta

This sculpture of a mounted soldier reveals the crucial military role of the horse. When compared to the stature of the rider, the importance of the horse becomes readily apparent. This creature provided security and strength, allowing the empire to secure its borders and expand its influences across Central Asia. The magnificent regalia of the dark gray horse, including a white saddle blanket with orange highlights, reflect the respect this animal received. The warrior as well is gorgeously decorated with a painted orange tunic and gray chest armor. He would have originally held a wooden bow or spear in between his hands that has rotted away over the centuries. This remarkable sculpture is a creation of immense cultural and historical significance that attests to the critical role of the horse in ancient Chinese civilization. - (H.889)



H.902

Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 13.25" (33.7cm) high

Collection: Chinese

Medium: Painted Terracotta

This sculpture of a mounted soldier reveals the crucial military role of the horse. When compared to the stature of the rider, the importance of the horse becomes readily apparent. This creature provided security and strength, allowing the empire to secure its borders and expand its influences across Central Asia. The magnificent regalia of the dark gray horse, including a white saddle blanket with orange highlights, reflect the respect this animal received. The warrior as well is gorgeously decorated with a painted purple tunic. He would have originally held a wooden bow or spear in between his hands that has rotted away over the centuries. This remarkable sculpture is a creation of immense cultural and historical significance that attests to the critical role of the horse in ancient Chinese civilization. - (H.902)



H.897

Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 13.5" (34.3cm) high

Collection: Chinese

Medium: Painted Terracotta

This sculpture of a mounted soldier reveals the crucial military role of the horse. When compared to the stature of the rider, the importance of the horse becomes readily apparent. This creature provided security and strength, allowing the empire to secure its borders and expand its influences across Central Asia. The magnificent regalia of the dark gray horse, including a green saddle blanket with orange highlights, reflect the respect this animal received. The warrior as well is gorgeously decorated with a painted orange tunic. He would have originally held a wooden bow or spear in between his hands that has rotted away over the centuries. This remarkable sculpture is a creation of immense cultural and historical significance that attests to the critical role of the horse in ancient Chinese civilization. - (H.897)



H.896

Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 13.75" (34.9cm) high

Collection: Chinese

Medium: Painted Terracotta

This sculpture of a mounted soldier reveals the crucial military role of the horse. When compared to the stature of the rider, the importance of the horse becomes readily apparent. This creature provided security and strength, allowing the empire to secure its borders and expand its influences across Central Asia. The magnificent regalia of the dark gray horse, including a white saddle blanket with orange highlights, reflect the respect this animal received. The warrior as well is gorgeously decorated with a painted green tunic. He would have originally held a wooden bow or spear in between his hands that has rotted away over the centuries. This remarkable sculpture is a creation of immense cultural and historical significance that attests to the critical role of the horse in ancient Chinese civilization. - (H.896)



H.901 Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 13.25" (33.7cm) high

Collection: Chinese Style: Han Dynasty

Medium: Painted Terracotta Location: United States This sculpture of a mounted soldier reveals the crucial military role of the horse. When compared to the stature of the rider, the importance of the horse becomes readily apparent. This creature provided security and strength, allowing the empire to secure its borders and expand its influences across Central Asia. The magnificent regalia of the dark gray horse, including a green saddle blanket with orange highlights, reflect the respect this animal received. The warrior as well is gorgeously decorated with a painted orange tunic. He would have originally held a wooden bow or spear in between his hands that has rotted away over the centuries. This remarkable sculpture is a creation of immense cultural and historical significance that attests to the critical role of the horse in ancient Chinese civilization. - (H.901)

## Set of Eight Painted Terracotta Han Horse and Rider Sculptures



H.1095 Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Collection: Chinese Art

Medium: Terracotta

Location: Great Britain

This set of eight sculptures of mounted soldier reveals the crucial military role the horse played in Ancient Chinese society. When compared to the stature of the rider, the importance of the horse becomes readily apparent. This creature provided security and strength, allowing the empire to secure its borders and expand its influences across Central Asia. One of the horse and rider sculptures is significantly larger than the other seven figures, suggesting that this rider is the leader of the force. The horses are white and grey, with saddles highlighted by orange and green painted. The riders wear orange tunics, a few have gray chest armor. They would have originally held a wooden bows or spears in their hands that likely rotted away over the centuries. This remarkable set of sculptures is a creation of immense cultural and historical significance that attests to the critical role of the horse in ancient Chinese civilization. - (H.1095)



Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 13.5" (34.3cm) high x

12.2" (31.0cm) wide

Collection: Chinese

Medium: Painted Terracotta

This sculpture of a mounted soldier reveals the crucial military role of the horse. When compared to the stature of the rider, the importance of the horse becomes readily apparent. This creature provided security and strength, allowing the empire to secure its borders and expand its influences across Central Asia. The magnificent regalia of the white horse, including a green and orange saddle blanket, reflect the respect this animal received. The warrior as well is gorgeously decorated with a painted orange tunic and gray chest armor. He would have originally held a wooden bow or spear in between his hands that has rotted away over the centuries. This remarkable sculpture is a creation of immense cultural and historical significance that attests to the critical role of the horse in ancient Chinese civilization. - - (RD.009)



RD.010

Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 13.5" (34.3cm) high x

12.2" (31.0cm) wide

Collection: Chinese

Medium: Painted Terracotta

This sculpture of a mounted soldier reveals the crucial military role of the horse. When compared to the stature of the rider, the importance of the horse becomes readily apparent. This creature provided security and strength, allowing the empire to secure its borders and expand its influences across Central Asia. The magnificent regalia of the white horse, including a blue and orange blanket, reflect the respect this animal received. The warrior as well is gorgeously decorated with a painted orange tunic and gray chest armor. He would have originally held a wooden bow or spear in between his hands that has rotted away over the centuries. This remarkable sculpture is a creation of immense cultural and historical significance that attests to the critical role of the horse in ancient Chinese civilization. - - (RD.010)



RD.011

Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 13.9" (35.3cm) high x

13" (33.0cm) wide

Collection: Chinese Style: Han Dynasty

Medium: Painted Terracotta



RD.013

Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 13" (33.0cm) high x

13.5" (34.3cm) wide

Collection: Chinese

Medium: Painted Terracotta



RD.015

Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 13" (33.0cm) high x

13.6" (34.5cm) wide

Collection: Chinese

Medium: Painted Terracotta



RD.016

Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 13" (33.0cm) high x

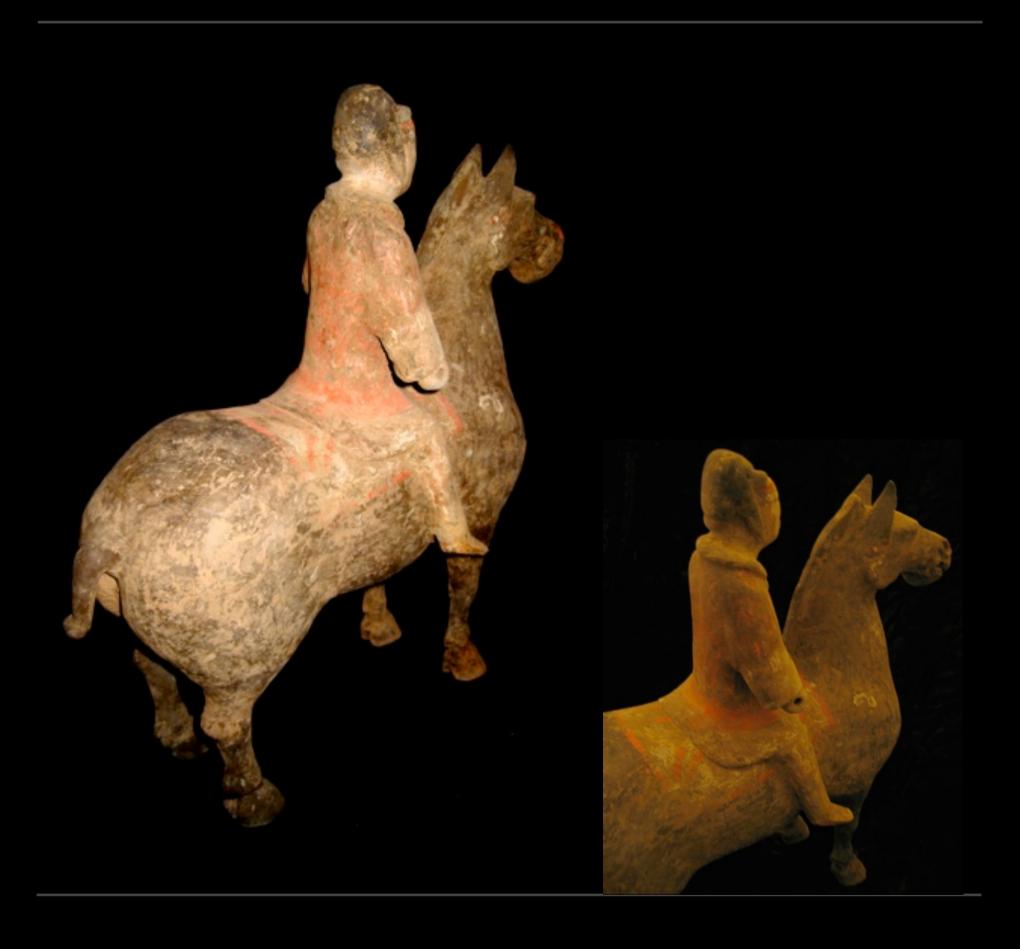
13.5" (34.3cm) wide

Collection: Chinese

Medium: Painted Terracotta

This small sculpture of a mounted soldier reveals the crucial military role of the horse. When compared to the diminutive stature of the rider, the importance of the horse becomes readily apparent. This creature provided security and strength, allowing the empire to secure its borders and expand its influences across Central Asia. The magnificent regalia of the horse, including a painted purple saddle blanket, reflect the respect this animal received. The warrior as well is gorgeously decorated with a painted red tunic and gray chest armor. A quiver is visible attached to his back. He would have originally held a wooden bow in between his hands that has rotted away over the centuries. This remarkable sculpture is a creation of immense cultural and historical significance that attests to the critical role of the horse in ancient Chinese civilization. - (RD.011) - (RD.013)

This sculpture of a mounted soldier reveals the crucial military role of the horse. When compared to the stature of the rider, the importance of the horse becomes readily apparent. This creature provided security and strength, allowing the empire to secure its borders and expand its influences across Central Asia. The magnificent regalia of the white horse, including a white saddle blanket with orange and blue highlights, reflect the respect this animal received. The warrior as well is gorgeously decorated with a painted orange tunic, green pants, and gray chest armor. He would have originally held a wooden bow or spear in between his hands that has rotted away over the centuries. This remarkable sculpture is a creation of immense cultural and historical significance that attests to the critical role of the horse in ancient Chinese civilization. - (RD.015) - (RD.016)



RD.014

Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 13" (33.0cm) high x

13.4" (34.0cm) wide

Collection: Chinese

Medium: Painted Terracotta

This sculpture of a mounted soldier reveals the crucial military role of the horse. When compared to the stature of the rider, the importance of the horse becomes readily apparent. This creature provided security and strength, allowing the empire to secure its borders and expand its influences across Central Asia. The magnificent regalia of the white horse, including a green and orange saddle blanket, reflect the respect this animal received. The warrior as well is gorgeously decorated with a painted orange tunic and gray chest armor. He would have originally held a wooden bow or spear in between his hands that has rotted away over the centuries. This remarkable sculpture is a creation of immense cultural and historical significance that attests to the critical role of the horse in ancient Chinese civilization. - (RD.014)



RD.017

Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 14" (35.6cm) high x

13.1" (33.3cm) wide

Collection: Chinese

Medium: Painted Terracotta



RD.018

Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 14" (35.6cm) high x

12.5" (31.8cm) wide

Collection: Chinese

Medium: Painted Terracotta



RD.019

Origin: China

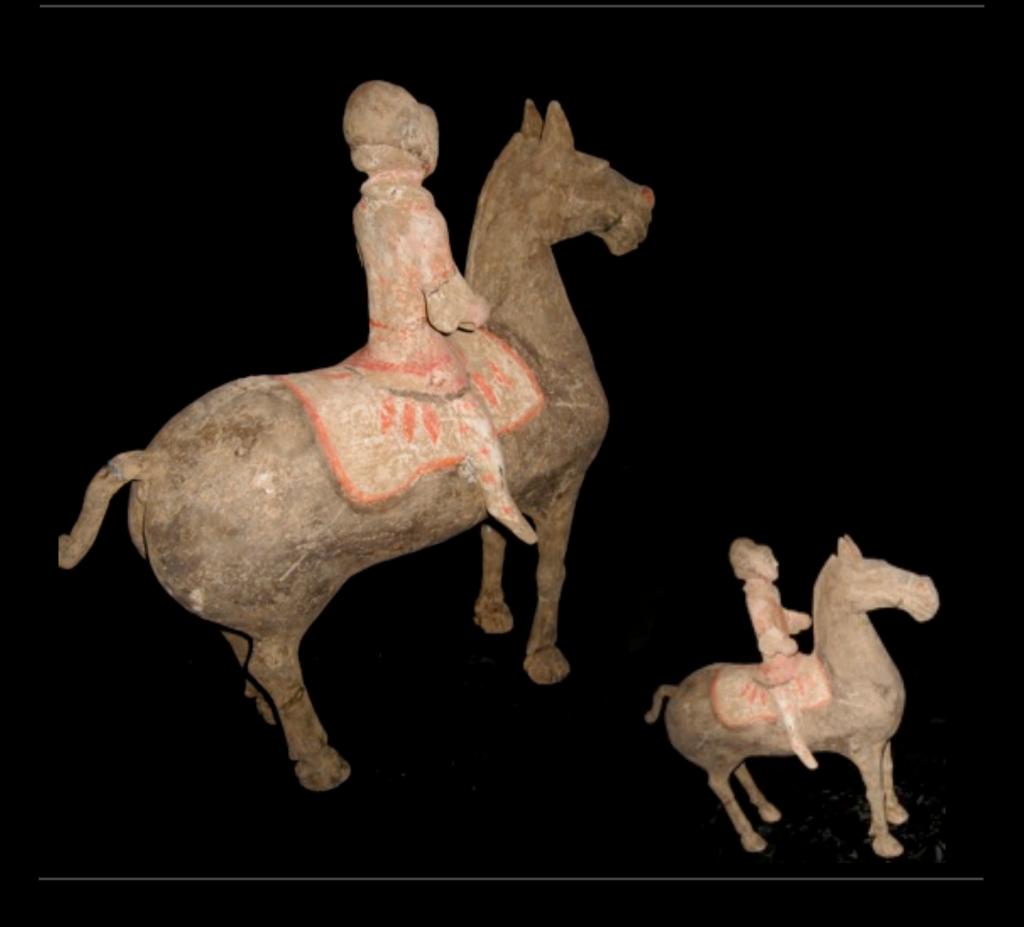
Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 13" (33.0cm) high x

13.5" (34.3cm) wide

Collection: Chinese

Medium: Painted Terracotta



RD.020

Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 14.70" (37.3cm) high x

14.85" (37.7cm) wide

Collection: Chinese Style: Han Dynasty

Medium: Painted Terracotta



RD.022

Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 14" (35.6cm) high x

13" (33.0cm) wide

Collection: Chinese

Medium: Painted Terracotta



RD.023

Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 13.50" (34.3cm) high x

13.75" (34.9cm) wide

Collection: Chinese

Medium: Painted Terracotta



RD.024

Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 13" (33.0cm) high x

12.85" (32.6cm) wide

Collection: Chinese

Medium: Painted Terracotta



RD.025

Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 13" (33.0cm) high x

12.85" (32.6cm) wide

Collection: Chinese

Medium: Painted Terracotta

This sculpture of a mounted soldier reveals the crucial military role of the horse. When compared to the stature of the rider, the importance of the horse becomes readily apparent. This creature provided security and strength, allowing the empire to secure its borders and expand its influences across Central Asia. The magnificent regalia of the white horse, including a green saddle blanket, reflect the respect this animal received. The warrior as well is gorgeously decorated with a painted orange tunic and gray chest armor. He would have originally held a wooden bow in between his hands that has rotted away over the centuries. This remarkable sculpture is a creation of immense cultural and historical significance that attests to the critical role of the horse in ancient Chinese civilization. - (RD.017) - (RD.018) - (RD.019) - (RD.020) - (RD.022) - (RD.023) - (RD.024) - (RD.025)



RD.048 Collection: Chinese

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 32.3" (82.0cm) high x

24.6" (62.5cm) wide



RD.049 Collection: Chinese

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 30.9" (78.5cm) high x

27.2" (69.1cm) wide



RD.054 Collection: Chinese

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 30.9" (78.5cm) high x

26.3" (66.8cm) wide



RD.049

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 30.9" (78.5cm) high x

27.2" (69.1cm) wide

Collection: Chinese

Style: Western Han Dynasty Medium: Painted Terracotta



RD.055 Collection: Chinese

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 32.2" (81.8cm) high x

25.3" (64.3cm) wide



RD.057 Collection: Chinese

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 33" (83.8cm) high x

25" (63.5cm) wide



RD.061 Collection: Chinese

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 31" (78.7cm) high x

26" (66.0cm) wide



RD.062 Collection: Chinese

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 30.4" (77.2cm) high x

26.1" (66.3cm) wide



RD.064 Collection: Chinese

Medium: Painted Terracotta

Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 34.6" (87.9cm) high x

27.5" (69.9cm) wide

The great influence of the horse throughout the history of China cannot be underestimated. In fact, the ancient expansion of the Chinese Empire was due in large part to the horse. The rapid mobility of horse allowed for quick communication between far away provinces. Likewise, the military role of horses aided in the conquest and submission of distant lands. The importance of the horse in the history and culture of China can be viewed, in part, through the artistic legacy of this great civilization. In sculpture, painting, and literature, horses were glorified and revered. Horses were believed to be related to mythological dragons, reflecting their sacred status within society. During the unification of China under the Han Dynasty, bands of mounted nomadic warriors from the north threatened the country. In order to thwart their attacks, the Chinese sought to import stronger, faster steeds from Central Asia (as opposed to the Mongol ponies used by the invaders), eventually leading to the creation of the Silk Road. This small sculpture of a mounted soldier reveals the crucial military role of the horse. When compared to the diminutive stature of the rider, the importance of the horse becomes readily apparent. This creature provided security and strength, allowing the empire to secure its borders and expand its influences across Central Asia. The magnificent regalia of the horse, including a brilliantly painted saddle in red and green/gold, reflect the respect this animal received. The warrior as well is gorgeously decorated with a painted red tunic and gray chest armor. He would have originally held a wooden spear or bow in between his hands that has rotted away over the centuries. This remarkable sculpture is a creation of immense cultural and historical significance that attests to the critical role of the horse in ancient Chinese civilization. - (RD.048) -(RD.049) - (RD.054) - (RD.055) - (RD.057) - (RD.061) - (RD.062)



RD.058

Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 AD

Dimensions: 32.5" (82.6cm) high x

25" (63.5cm) wide

Collection: Chinese

Style: Western Han Dynasty Medium: Painted Terracotta



RD.059

Origin: China

Circa: 206 BC to 220 BC

Dimensions: 36.2" (91.9cm) high x

29.1" (73.9cm) wide

Collection: Chinese

Style: Western Han Dynasty Medium: Painted Terracotta

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