

**A LARGE PAINTED TERRACOTTA COVERED VASE**



ITALY, VENICE

18TH CENTURY

DIMENSIONS :

HEIGHT : 44 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>16</sub> IN - WIDTH : 22 <sup>7</sup>/<sub>19</sub> IN

**27. Quai Voltaire. 75007 Paris**

Our large covered vase is made out of painted terracotta. It is an European varnish, called in France “Vernis Martin”, used at the 18<sup>th</sup> century to imitate Chinese and Japanese lacquer, where it were at that time, very expensive. The Italian artists of the 18<sup>th</sup> century seek to imitate the porcelain, woodworks, and marbles thanks to this European varnish.

In our example, they tried to reproduce large Far-Eastern pieces made out of porcelain. This work realized on terracotta allowed a less expensive income at the time, but the result was of very great quality as we can see it with our vase.

At the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the speciality of the city of Venice was European varnished pieces of furniture and decor. The composition of the decoration of our vase is typical Venetian ornamentation of this time. This theme of Chinese characters in their landscape, inserted in the display of fauna and a flora quite present, are issued from the Venetian repertory of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the decorative organization, which is found in many Venetian pieces of furniture of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, as can testify the Saul Levy ‘s books, *Lacche Veneziane Settecentesche*.

The so particular blue colour of our vase is present on some models of commodes and chairs realized in Venice at the same time. We can suppose that there was a unit in which the vase that was inserted harmoniously.