An Apulian Black-glazed Kantharos

COLNAGHI

Greek, Apulian, Gnathain
ca. 300 B.C.

Black-glazed Kantharos

Terracotta
h: 11 cm; 4 3/8 in.

Provenance

Sigismondo Castromediana, Duke of Caballino, near Lecce.
Mrs. Francis Alexander, Florence, Italy.
Miss Mary Swett, Brookline, Massachusetts, 1924.
Acquired by the Toledo Museum of Art, 1924-2016, accession no. 1924.114.
The Toledo Sale, Harlan J. Berk, Ltd., Chicago, 2017, lot 97.

Published

C.G. Boulter and K.T. Luckner, *Corpus Vasorum Antiquorum, The Toledo Museum of Art*, Fasc. 2, Toledo, 1984, p. 27, pl. (993) 110.3.
Beazley Archive Database no. 1001544.

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A kantharos is a deep drinking cup, recognizable as much for its appearance on Attic pottery as an attribute in the hands of the God of Wine, Dionysus, as it is for examples of the cups known from antiquity. The present example, with its finely ribbed bowl and long stem, has a distinctly fashioned flange below the rim. Its twin vertical handles are double-reeded and knotted toward their apex in elegant Herakles-knots. This square knot was a symbol in antiquity of power and love that was associated with the hero Herakles.

Save for the stem, which is reserved, this graceful kantharos is swathed in a lustrous black slip. The glossy hue was perfected over the decades throughout the greater Greek world in order to imitate the sheen on high quality metal wares.

Comparanda

Frankfurt, Museum Für Kunsthandwerk, KH 5604.

London, British Museum, 1750.

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