

COLNAGHI



ATTRIBUTED TO THE BIZOUMIS PAINTER  
*A Black-figure Trefoil Oinochoe*

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## ATTRIBUTED TO THE BIZOUMIS PAINTER

Greek

Attic, ca. 530-520 B.C.

*Black-figure Trefoil Oinochoe*

Terracotta

h. 21.9 cm

8 5/8 in.

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### Provenance

Collection of William Randolph Hearst, San Simeon, California;

*William Randolph Hearst*, Parke Bernet, New York, 5-6 April 1963, lot 49;

Collection of Russell B. Aitken, New York;

*Russell B. Aitken Collection*, Christie's New York, 11 June 2003, lot 104.

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### Literature

D. von Bothmer, *Amazons in Greek Art*, Oxford, 1957, p. 42, no. 52.

A.J. Clark, *Attic Black-figured Olpai and Oinochai*, PhD diss., NYU, 1992, p. 873, no. 2037.

A.J. Clark in M. Levkoff, *Hearst, the Collector*, New York, 2008, p. 213, no. 95.

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The main panel of this oinochoe shows a dramatic combat scene between Herakles and an Amazon. The hero strides forcefully to the right, seizing the Amazon with his left hand while raising his knobby club in his right, poised to strike. He is dressed in a short chiton and wears the skin of the Nemean lion draped over his shoulders. A sword hangs at his side, suspended from a baldric that crosses over his left shoulder. Opposite, an Amazon kneels facing right, turning her head back toward Herakles in a gesture that heightens the tension of the encounter. She wears a short chiton and a high-crested helmet, and she holds a spear in her left hand. At her side is a Boeotian shield decorated with two serpents. The field around the figures is enlivened with vine motifs. The composition is framed on either side by a dotted border, while above the scene run vertical lines and a net-pattern design. Additional details are added in added red and white.

The present vessel is an oinochoe, a water-pouring vessel used during the preparation of Greek wine during a symposium (Greek wine was very concentrated and was mixed with water to make it more palatable—it was a sign of barbarism to drink ‘unmixed’ wine). The scene of Herakles defeating an Amazon, then, is a fitting subject for a vessel that conquered the barbarism of unmixed wine with civilizing water.

In this vase’s catalogue entry in the 2008 publication *Hearst, The Collector*, A.J. Clark names the painter of this vase, after connecting the hand with the painting on two other privately owned vases, The Bizoumis Painter, after the California-based collector who then owned the vase as well as one of the other vases by the same hand.

## Comparanda



Another oinochoe, fragmentary, that A.J. Clark attributes to the Bizoumis Painter (Bizoumis Collection, California)

# COLNAGHI

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