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Apulian Gnathia Skyphos

An ancient Apulian Greek black glazed Gnathia skyphos with two roosters facing each other beneath a red and gold floral festoon and a band of dots and ovolo. On the reverse, a single stylized flower.



Apulia, Magna Graecia.
Ca. 350 - 300 BC.
Height: 3 3/4 in. (9.5 cm).

Gnathia ware is so named as it was first found at the Apulian site of Egnathia. The black glaze ware is often decorated with applied red, white, or yellow painted floral motifs. Production probably was centered around Taras, with workshops in Egnathia, Canosa and Sicily. The output and quality of the Greek colonial potters working in Southern Italy increased greatly following the Peloponnesian War when Attic exports fell off sharply. South Italian Colonial Greek craftsmanship of the 4th century BC was an amalgamation of the Ionian (Athenian, Attic) conventions, and Doric (western colonial Greek) styles, with a noticeable native Italian aesthetic. The five predominant regional schools of South Italian pottery were: Apulian, Sicilian, Lucanian, Paestan, and Campanian.

Formerly in the collection of Jerome Eisenberg, New York.

inventory number: 8738

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