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Apulian Gnathia Skyphos: Lion and Swan



An ancient Apulian Greek black glazed Gnathia skyphos painted with added white and yellow painted with a swan on one side and lion on the other, each side with ivy trailing, pendant bands and rosettes.

Apulia, Magna Graecia.
Ca. 350 - 300 BC.
Height: 4 in. (10.1 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.

Published: A. Walker, ed., Animals in Ancient Art form the Leo Mildenberg Collection, Part III, (Mainz, 1996), pp. 45-46, no. 65;

Formerly in the collection of Jerome Eisenberg, New York; previously in the Leo Mildenberg collection, Zurich, Switzerland.

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