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Apulian Xenon Lekanis



An ancient Apulian Greek Xenon ware lekanis decorated with a scrolling band of ivy and berries on the knobbed lid, and a wave pattern around the side.

Apulia, Magna Graecia.
Ca. 330 - 300 BC.
Width: 7 3/4 in. (19.8 cm).

Xenon ware is a specific type of Apulian pottery, so named after a vase, now in Frankfurt (Beazley, EVP, p. 219,1.) inscribed with the name: XENON. The type is distinguished by added matte red decoration over black glaze (six's technique), often in floral and geometric designs. 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; acquired at Christie's, New York, December 18, 1997, lot 151.

inventory number: 8973

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