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Etruscan Bronze Siren

An ancient Etruscan bronze vessel foot in the form of a siren with a woman's head, breasts, and two long hair braids, the body terminating in a single cloven hoof, with two wings on the back with engraved feathers



Etruria.
Ca. 6th - 5th century BC.
Height: 3 3/4 in. (9.7 cm).

The Siren is a mythological creature that was part woman and part bird, often perceived as human-like beings. By the 7th century BC, sirens were regularly depicted in art as human-headed birds. They may have been influenced by the ba-bird of Egyptian religion. In early Greek art, the sirens were generally represented as large birds with women's heads, bird feathers and scaly feet. Later depictions shifted to show sirens with human upper bodies and bird legs, with or without wings. They were often shown playing a variety of musical instruments, especially the lyre.

Formerly in a German private collection.

inventory number: 9824

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