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Messapian Lebes

An ancient Messapian lebes with high arched handles, lid with tall spiraled knob, the body painted with acanthus leaves and rays at the shoulder.

Southern Apulia.
Ca. 4th century BC.
Height: 4 3/4 in. (13.6 cm).

The Messapians were a tribe inhabiting Southern Apulia in antiquity. Their origins are debated, but it is generally believed that they migrated across the Adriatic from Illyria during the Bronze Age. Although heavily influenced by the Greek colonies of Magna Graecia, Messapian material culture remained distinct until the region was overrun and absorbed by the Romans during the course of the second century BC.

Formerly in a New York private collection.

inventory number: 9738

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