

# COLNAGHI

Est. 1760



*Attributed to the Centaur Painter*

*Black-figure "Little Master" Cup*

Attic Greek, ca. 545-540 B.C.

Terracotta

Height: 10.5 cm; 4 1/8 in.

Width (incl. handles): 19.5 cm; 7 5/8 in.

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Provenance:

With Ulla Lindner (Munich) by 1970;  
Private Collection (France) 1970-2023.

Published:

Lindner, *Lagerliste 1* (1970), pl. 14, n. 68;  
Peter Heesen, *Athenian Little-Master cups*, Alkmaar 2011, pl. 129, n.522.  
Beazley Database n.5869.

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The present vessel is a so-called Little Master Cup, a small kind of drinking cup related to the kylix. It is in bands of black slip, with a frieze in black-figure on the outer body intersecting with the handles, featuring a finely executed procession of alternating satyrs and maenads, with incision and red paint further accentuating the figures.

Little Master cups represent a refined and delicate miniature style of vase painting common in Athens in the first half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C. While large-scale vase painters also painted smaller vessels, very few Little Master painters worked in larger scale. Precise dating of these cups is made possible by the fact that many are signed, not by the painters but by the potter, as these two roles were carried out by different individuals. The style was popular and valued, as evidenced by the fact that these cups were widely exported and have been found across Greece as well as in Etruscan Italy. The present piece is attributed to the Centaur Painter by P. Heesen (2011), who assigns it to the first phase of the painter's career, 545-540 B.C.

Reassembled from original fragments, losses filled with plaster and painted.

## References:

The most recent complete discussion of the career of the Centaur Painter is to be found in Peter Heesen, *Athenian Little-Master cups*, Alkmaar 2011.

See also J.D. Beazley, "Little Master Cups", *JHS* 52 (1932) 167-204.

Joan Tarlow Haldenstein: *Little master cups. Studies in 6th century Attic black-figure vase painting*, Dissertation University of Cincinnati 1975.

Heide Mommsen: Kleinmeister-Schalen, in: *Der Neue Pauly*, Vol. 6, 1999, Col. 563

Rudolf Wachter: *Drinking inscriptions on Attic little-master cups. A catalogue (AVI 3)*, in: *Kadmos* 42 (2003), p. 141-189.