



COLNAGHI

ATTRIBUTED TO THE
WHITEFACE/FRIGNANO PAINTER
A Large Campanian Hydria

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Greek, Campanian

ca. 360-330 B.C.

Hydria

Terracotta

h. 50 cm

19 3/4 in.

Provenance

Private Collection of a Swiss Scholar;

with Galerie Segredakis, Paris;

Swiss private collection, acquired prior to 1962;

thence by descent.

Accompanied by Art Loss Register certificate #S00249645

Publications

A. D. Trendall, *The Red-Figured Vases of Lucania, Campania and Sicily I*, Oxford, 1967, p. 381, pl. 147.1, no. 139.

A. D. Trendall, *The Red-Figured Vases of Lucania, Campania and Sicily, Supplement II*, London, 1973, p. 214.

H. Bloesch, et al., *Das Tier in der Antike*, Zurich, 1974, p. 44, pl. 44, no. 264.

A. D. Trendall, *The Red-Figured Vases of Lucania, Campania and Sicily, Supplement III*, London, 1983, p. 183.

A.D. Trendall, *Red Figure Vases of South Italy and Sicily*, London, 1989, p. 164, no. 295.

I. McPhee, "Hesperides", *Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologicae Classicae*, vol. V, Zurich and Munich, 1990, p.397, pl. 288, no. 5.

J.M. Padgett, et al., *Vase-Painting in Italy, Red-Figure and Related Works in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston*, Boston, 1993, p. 167.

Exhibitions

Zürich, Archäologische Institut der Universität Zürich, *Das Tier in der Antike*, September - November 1974.

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The red-figured vases produced by the Greek colonists of Magna Graecia (that is, South Italy and Sicily) in the later 5th and 4th centuries BC can be assigned to five distinct regional schools: Apulian, Lucanian, Campanian, Paestan and more recently Sicilian, thanks to the wealth of new material yielded by excavations in Sicily since 1950. Our vase is an important product of the Campanian school and has been attributed to the so-called Whiteface-Frignano Painter by the leading authority in this field, the late Professor Arthur Dale Trendall. He estimates that the workshop of this painter is responsible for about 300 extant vases, produced mostly between the years 360 and 330 BC.

Measuring 50 cm. (19 3/4 in.) high, our vessel is a hydria, a pot used in antiquity primarily for storing and fetching water; it is furnished with a vertical handle at the back for dipping, and two horizontal handles at the side for lifting. The figured scene between the horizontal handles shows the Garden of the Hesperides. According to Greek mythology, the Hesperides were the daughters of Night and Erebus (or, according to another source, of Hesperis and Atlas) who were the guardians of a tree of golden apples given by Earth to the goddess Hera at her marriage. Renowned for their sweet singing, the number of sisters varies from three to seven; our hydria depicts three sisters. Larson, the dragon who guarded the tree, is shown here as a serpent coiled around the trunk of the tree and drinking or feeding from a golden phiale held out by one of the sisters. Two more Hesperides converse at right, clasping each other's arms. All three sisters are heavily draped and bedecked in wreaths, earrings, necklaces and bracelets. Flowering plants surround the base of the tree which is laden with apples. The rest of the vessel is richly ornamented with various designs: a running wave along the sloping rim, an oval band and berried laurel around the neck, a continuous meander below the figured scene, and an array of elegant palmettes and tendrils at the back and sides.

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