

COLNAGHI



*Sarcophagus Fragment of
an Amazon*

COLNAGHI

Roman

Imperial Period, 2nd century A.D.

Sarcophagus Fragment of an Amazon

Marble

42 x 27 cm

16 1/2 x 10 5/8 in

Provenance

N.E. Collection, Worthing, United Kingdom, acquired before 1980;
By descent to previous owner.

The present fragment was once part of a large sculptural frieze that decorated one side of a sarcophagus. Marble sarcophagi became increasingly popular in the Roman Imperial Period among the Roman elite. Decorative friezes typically covered all four sides of a sarcophagus, with subjects widely variable, from mythological scenes to hunting friezes or even portraits of the deceased and their family members.

The figure is skilfully carved in a particularly high relief, with almost the entirety of the figure carved away from the backing slab. She is recognizable as an Amazon from the shield she carries in her left hand as well as her helmet, the brim of which can be seen over her hair. The Amazonomachy as a funeral decorative program enjoyed a period of popularity from around 150-170 A.D., particularly in the eastern Roman Empire. These scenes depicted nonspecific battles between Amazons and male soldiers, sometimes identifiable as Roman legionnaires by their dress and armament. The conflict tests the boundaries between male and female, civilization and barbarism, human “reality” and the not-quite-human world of myth, and perhaps it offers a reminder of the violence—and strangeness—of death.

COLNAGHI

COLNAGHI *London*

26 BURY STREET, LONDON SW1Y 6AL
UNITED KINGDOM

MONDAY TO FRIDAY
10AM-6PM

+44 (0)20 7491 7408

contact@colnaghi.com

COLNAGHI *Madrid*

CALLE GENERAL CASTAÑOS 9
PLANTA BAJA, DCHA.
28004 MADRID

MONDAY TO FRIDAY
BY APPOINTMENT

spain@colnaghi.com

COLNAGHI *New York*

23 EAST 67TH STREET, FOURTH FLOOR, NEW YORK, NY 10065
USA

MONDAY TO FRIDAY
10AM-6PM

+1 (917) 388-3825

newyork@colnaghi.com

COLNAGHI *Brussels*

RUE JACQUES JORDAENS 30
1000 BRUXELLES
BELGIUM

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

brussels@colnaghi.com