



THE MERRIN GALLERY



1. Torso of King Nepherites I

Egyptian, Dynasty XXIX, 399 - 393 BC

Black Granite

Height: 50 cm.

Ex collection: European Art Market, The Merrin Gallery, Inc; W. Cherry, Kentucky and New York, and Lynda Beierwaltes, Loveland, CO.

This superb lower torso from a monumental statue depicts Nepherites I the first king of Dynasty XXIX. A statue that may be definitely identified as the king, himself, is extraordinarily rare: the fact that this is from over life-size statue makes it rarer still. The quality of the sculpture is extraordinary. The figure is conceived according to the strictures of the classic attitude for male figures in Egyptian art of all periods: he stands erect, confidently striding forward, the left leg advanced. The arms are held at the sides, the fists clenched, thumbs articulated grasping objects that have been identified as small bundles of linen cloth, symbol of royal office.

The rendering of the belly shows great plasticity as it swells slightly. The king wears a crisply pleated kilt in front. A hieroglyphic inscription containing Nepherites' name within a royal cartouche is located on the pillar. The inscription is the end of one name and then, another. Also present is his title: Reed, ½ loaf bread, & bee = king of upper and lower Egypt.

A torso of Hakoris, the third king of the dynasty, ruling from 393-380 BC, is in the collection of the Museum of Fine Arts and is imbued with all the requisite qualities of the type: presence, power, and eternal dominion. Dynasty XXIX was a time of renewed hope for the Egyptian people. During the 28th through 30th dynasties, Egypt was once again ruled by Egyptians, the native people having successfully thrown off the yoke of Persian domination. This however was not to last, as Persia, once again subjugated Egypt in 342 BC (Dynasty XXXI). In this statue of Nepherites, one can see sovereignty and his place in the everlasting.

References: The Brooklyn Museum Cleopatra's Egypt- Age of the Ptolemy's (1989), 71 fig. 38, torso of the Pharaoh Necho II of Dynasty XXIX (Museum of Fine Arts, Boston); cat. Nos. 24: "The Dattari Statue" of Dynasty XXX, of a garbed (though some 150 years later); Bernard V. Bothmer Egyptian Sculpture of the Late Period (1960) no. 75. Figs. 185-7, plate 72, less highly finished kilted torso of dynasty XXX.





















2. Egyptian Head of Hippopotamus

Egypt (Karnak), New Kingdom, 18th Dynasty, 1550 - 1292 BC Hematite Height: 3.2 cm.
Private collection Germany, acquired between 1954 and 1959 in Egypt.

3. Red-Figured Rhyton

Apulian, ca. 350 - 340 BC Terracotta Length: 15.2 cm.
Molded in the form of a goats head, black-glazed with added white for the horns, the eyes reserved, the iris and pupil in black outlined on white, the bowl with a striding lady looking at herself in a mirror, palmette complexes on either side of the strap handle.

4. Predynastic Vase with Lug Handles

Egyptian, predynastic Period, 3500 - 3200 BC Porphyritic stone Height: 15.5 cm.
Nicholas Koutoulakis private collection, Basel, thence by decent.

5. Olmec Vessel in the Form of a Fish

Las Bocas, Mexico, ca. 1500 - 500 BC Terracotta Height: 20.7 cm.
E.H. Merrin Gallery, Inc, 1968. Private collection, New York.

6. Colima Acrobat Vessel

West Coast, Mexico ca 200 BC - 200 AD Burnished terracotta Height: 24.3 cm.
Collection of Phyllis Judelson, Chicago, acquired pre-1967.

7. Intact Giant Elephant Bird Egg

Dating to the 17th century AD or earlier Height: 30 cm.
Gifted in 1959 by a Madagascan resident to Mr. Picka
Once one of Madagascar's crown inhabitants, the elephant bird (*Aepyornis maximus*) is considered the largest bird to have ever lived. The first records of the bird are from the 9th century when Saracen and Indian traders visited Madagascar and spoke of legends of the giant roc (rukḥ). The elephant bird became rarer and rarer once with the settling of Madagascar's coastal regions, then inner land, by Europeans until it eventually went extinct in the 17th century due to excessive hunting.

8. A Group of Four Bronzes Used for Wine During Symposia

Greek, ca. 4th century BC Bronze

Kylix (W: 18.5 cm.), Strainer (H: 16 cm.), Handle (H: 22 cm.) and Vase (H: 11 cm.)

Michael Ward company, 1980's - early 1990's.

9. A Very Fine Maya Stone Pendant of a Supernatural Face of a Deity with an Openwork May, Symbolic of Royal Speech

Jaina, Mexico, ca. 550 - 950 AD Height: 6 cm.

David Bramhall, New York, 1960's, sold to Carol Meyer, New York by 1968,
sold by Carol Meyer's estate Nov 17, 2006, lot 340.

10. Large Female Mezcala

Mexico, ca. 300 - 100 BC Metadiorite Height: 19.8 cm.

Provenance: Sotheby's New York, May 20, 1986, lot #135.

EH Merrin Gallery, Inc; Private collection New York

This Mezcala is exceptional for its large size and for showing its sex.

11. Seated Figure of Osiris-Iah

Egypt, Late Period, ca. 664 - 343 BC Bronze with inlaid electrum eyes Height: 31.5 cm.

French Noble collection, 1960-1970; European Art Market.

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