A000-Eur-Roman-Rhyton-Sheep’s Head-Terra Cotta-250-350- CE



Figs. 1-2. Roman-Rhyton-Sheep’s Head-Terra Cotta-250-350- CE

**Case no.: 4**

**Accession Number:**

**Formal Label:** A000-Eur-Roman-Rhyton-Sheep’s Head-Terra Cotta-250-350- CE

**Display Description:**

Rustic sheep’s head in Aries design. Many kept the Laren - Roman House gods - for example in such a Rhyton - a sign of happiness, prosperity and peace of the household. The Rhyton is a cult vessel of the Romans for ritual acts. Through the Rhyton, for example, wine is being dropped off on a consecrated altar. From this incense smoke rose. The Rhyta is also found in the Greek culture, both as painted and plain horns. Usually the opening on the front side is used for the drinking of wine. Originally they were made from animal horns.

**LC Classification:b DF 220. K64**

**Date or Time Horizon:** 200 CE

**Geographical Area:** Rome

**Map:**



**GPS coordinates:** [41°54′N 12°30′E](https://tools.wmflabs.org/geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Rome&params=41_54_N_12_30_E_region:IT_type:city(3000000))

**Cultural Affiliation:** Roman Empire

**Medium:** Terra cotta

**Dimensions:**

**Weight:**

**Condition: original**

**Provenance:**

**Discussion:**

Aries is the first sign in the zodiac, spanning the first 30 degrees of celestial longitude (0°≤ λ <30°). Under the tropical zodiac, the Sun transits this sign from approximately March 20 to April 21 each year. This time duration is exactly the first month of Solar Hejri calendar (Hamal/Farvardin). The symbol of the ram is based on the Chrysomallus, the flying ram that provided the Golden Fleece (Atsma, Aaron J. (2015). ["Chrysomallus"](http://www.theoi.com/Ther/KriosKhrysomallos.html). The Theoi Project: Greek mythology.)

According to the tropical system of astrology, the Sun enters the sign of Aries when it reaches the March equinox, which time systems and the western calendar are rooted in, so as to occur on average on March 21. Because the Earth takes approximately 365.25 days to go around the Sun, the precise time of the equinox is not the same each year, and generally will occur about six hours later from one year to the next. February 29 of a leap year causes that year's vernal equinox to fall about eighteen hours earlier compared to the previous year. Since 1900 the vernal equinox date has ranged from March 20 at 08h (2000) GMT to March 21 at 19h (1903) GMT. March 19 at 23:20 will occur in 2044 UT1. In contrast, under the sidereal zodiac, the sun currently transits Aries from April 15 to 14 May (approximately).

**References:**