A000-Eur-Magna Graecia-Kybele-Seated-Terra cotta-550 BCE

  

Figs. 1-4. Eur-Magna Graecia-Kybele-Seated-Terra cotta-550 BCE

Case No.: 4

Accession No.

Formal Label:

**Display Description:**

Magna Graecia, western colonies, c 550 BCE. An elegant female figure, possibly representing the goddess Kybele (Cybele), mother of the gods, sitting with impressive posture, both hands placed upon her knees. She is dressed in a fine polos and chiton, the draperies of which cascade over her seated body, and diadem upon her coiffure with curls framing her sensitively modeled face. Nice remains of red and white pigment still grace the piece.

Magna Graeca in southern Italy and Sicily became the center of a thriving Greek territory from the Gulf of Taranto southward by 800-700 BCE This statuette of Kybele, the mother of the gods, was made c 700-600 BCE before the onslaught of warring and malaria took its toll by 500 BCE. Chief cities during Magna Graeca’s heyday were Tarentum (colonized from Sparta), Metapontum (colonized from Achea), Heraclea (colonized from Tarentun), Siris (colonized from Colophon), Subaris (colonized from Achaea), Thurii (colonized from Athens), Crotona (colonized from Achaea), Caulonia (colonized from Crotona), Neapolis (colonized from Naples), Paestum or Posidonia (colonized from Sybaris), Eldea (colonized from Chalcis), Laos (colonized from Sybaris), Hipponium (colonized from Epizypharian Locris), and Rhegium (colonized from Reggio de Calabria and Chalcis).

Accession Number:

**LC Classification:** NA279.M3

Date or Time Horizon: 500 BCE

Geographical Area: Magna Graeca

**Map:**



Fig. 5. Magna Graeca cities after https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/4/49/Magna\_Graecia\_ancient\_colonies\_and\_dialects-en.svg/450px-Magna\_Graecia\_ancient\_colonies\_and\_dialects-en.svg.png

**GPS coordinates:**

Cultural Affiliation: Magna Graeca

Media: terra cotta, pigments and kaolin wash.

Dimensions:

Weight:

Condition: origin

Provenance:

**Discussion:**

According to Strabo (*Geographica*), Magna Graecia's colonization had already begun by the time of the Trojan War and lasted for several centuries. By the 8th c BCE Greek settlement (Cerchiai 2012:  14–18) ranged widely afield from southern Italy to the eastern and northern coasts of the Black Sea, Eastern Libya, Massalia (Marseille), and Sicily. The Ancient Greek language, its religious rites and its traditions of the independent *polis* founded an original Hellenic civilization soon developed, later interacting with the native Italic civilizations. The most important cultural transplant was the Chalcidean/Cumaean variety of the Greek alphabet, which was adopted by the Etruscans; the Old Italic alphabet subsequently evolved into the Latin alphabet, which became the most widely used alphabet in the world. The Greek statuettes such as this one represent the transplantation of Greek deities on what was Roman soil and they became integrated with Roman gods and goddesses. Kybele was thus the forerunner of Hera and the two became a syncretized version of the chief goddess both in Greece and Rome.

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