Case 10-Mex-Chupicuaro Tripod-Rattle Bowl-Triangular Design-300-100 BCE



Mexico-Chupicuaro Tripod-Rattle Bowl-Triangular Design-300-100 BCE

**Case no.:10**

**Accession Number:**

**Formal Label:**

**Display Description:**

This is a Chupicuaro tripod-rattle bowl. It is bi-chrome painted in red, black and cream with chevrons radiating around the bowl within a border of red-black and red lines. The bowl sits on three-pointed, hollow legs containing rattles.

Chupicuaro is located in the northern Mesoamerican border, west of the Mexican Plateau, it is situated on the hills nearby the Lerma River and its tributary Coroneo or Tiger River. However, most of the site is under water created by the Solis dam, just 7 kilometers from Acámbaro, in Guanajuato State. México, so this is a rare example.

A cult of the dead is characterized by tombs containing trophy skulls, tripod bowls, obsidian arrowheads, metates, figurines, shell ornaments, necklaces and beads, bone artifacts and musical instruments. All of these were found during excavations ca 1950-1951.

**LC Classification:**

**Date or Time Horizon:**

**Geographical Area:**

**Map, GPS coordinates:** Acámbaro region, Mexico



20° 01′ 20″ N, 100° 35′ 29″ W

**Cultural Affiliation:** Chupícuaro

**Media:** Terracotta, yellow and black paint.

**Dimensions:** H 5.5 in x W 4 in x D 2,5 in.

**Weight:**

**Provenance:** private Mexican collection ca. 1951

**Cultural Affiliation:**

**Media:** **Dimensions:**

**Weight:**

**Condition: Original.** A well-executed example.

**Provenance:** Ex. K. Reyes collection of Indio, CA.

**Discussion:**

Chupícuaro is recognized as one of the most accomplished ceramic centers in Mesoamerica in its fine finishing and decoration, which were developed in multiple shapes and colors, some with geometrical drawings. Motifs included triangular geometrical designs, deities, maternity, animals and plants. Ceramic treatments included multiple monochromatic forms and a variety of three-color polychromes (red, beige and black) with triangular geometrical drawings or zig-zag. Clay figurines used “pastillaje” techniques and hollow figures. Shell, bone and stone were used.

Chupícuaro’s cultural diffusion of its ceramic styles affected distant ceramic traditions, which lasted through the Classical Period and into the Postclassical Period, as seen in the Purépecha (Michoacán) ceramics.

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