

## Birth and Death on an Attic Stele

Jane E. Francis  
Concordia University

Among the several pieces of Greek sculpture in the Diniacopoulos Collection is a superb grave stele (D.41) of late 5th century B.C. date. This relief shows the typical scene of the deceased woman seated before a standing figure, possibly a servant, who cradles an object in her arms. The top part of the stele is broken away and it is unknown whether it carried an inscription. Both faces are represented in profile and are ill-preserved, but the drapery and composition of the figures provides significant stylistic evidence for interpretation and dating. Similarities with the drapery on the Nike Parapet reliefs on the Athenian Akropolis suggest that the Diniacopoulos stele must belong to the first phase of the re-emergence of figural grave reliefs in Athens, towards the end of the 5th c. BC. This paper analyzes the Diniacopoulos stele and places it in a functional and stylistic context among late-Classical grave monuments.

