

Attic Influences on Boeotian Cups

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Two black figure kylikes in the Diniacopoulos Collection demonstrate the degree to which Boeotian potters and vase painters attempted to emulate Attic styles, shapes, and iconography toward the close of the Archaic period. The short stocky stem with flaring foot and broad, shallow bowl with slightly curved diagonally set handles of the kylikes imitate the fashionable drinking cups made in the Athens in the early fifth century B.C.. The adaptation of the shape on the part of Boeotian potters from that in the Attic line occurred at a time when Athenian pottery was heavily imported to central Greece and the indigenous Boeotian impetus in black figure vase production had lost direction.

The imagery on these vases also suggests that the Boeotian craftsmen were alluding to heroic characters popularized in Athenian vase painting of the time, for they seem to meld aspects of both Herakles and Theseus into their scenes. This paper investigates the use of both shape and imagery drawn from the Attic repertoire in Diniacopoulos Boeotian black-figure vases.

