

	Object:	Alabastron (Salbgefäß)
	Museum:	Museum August Kestner Trammplatz 3 30159 Hannover (0511) 168-42730 museen- kulturgeschichte@hannover- stadt.de
	Collection:	Ancient Cultures, Vessel ceramics and vase painting
	Inventory number:	1931

Description

Conical widening body with omphalos-shaped base. The frieze shows lions each attacking a bull and two gazelles. The slight asymmetry of the vessel's shape is due to a manufacturing error.

Stylistically, the piece stands between Egyptian and non-Egyptian faience alabastra. Technique, style and colour suggest a proximity to Egyptian late period faience alabastra. The design and motif of the lion bullfight can be traced back to Egyptian models. The manufacturing defect speaks against a genuine Egyptian origin. The gazelles are a motif of Near Eastern art. It is more likely that they were imitated by Eastern Greek craftsmen (Rhodes?), since unsuccessful goods would never have been exported by the Egyptians. The piece falls into the Orientalising phase of Greek art. The Alabastron, which comes from an Etruscan tomb in Cerveteri (Caere), is evidence of the intensive long-distance trade that the Etruscans engaged in. (AVS)

Former August Kestner Collection, Rome

Basic data

Material/Technique:	Faience / light blue glaze
Measurements:	Height: 10.8 cm, Diameter: 6.6 cm

Events

Created	When	7.-6. century BC
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Found	Who	
	Where	Rhodes
	When	1800-1820
Collected	Who	
	Where	Cerveteri
	When	
	Who	August Kestner (1777-1853)
	Where	Rome

Keywords

- Alabastron
- Gazella
- Replica
- Stier

Literature

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- Webb, Virginia (1978): Archaic Greek faience. Miniature scent bottles and related objects from East Greece, 650-500 BC. Warminster, 45ff., 146ff. Nr. C 16