



Type: The Darius Vase

Findspot: near Canosa di Puglia (Italy)

Chronology: 340-320 BC

Actual location: Museo Archeologico Nazionale, Naples, inventory nr. 81947)

This volute crater was found, among other objects, in a burial and was likely made by a Greek potter from the Greek city of Taranto.

It shows the Persian king Darius among the Persians and is believed to be related to the Ionian revolt in 499 BC discussed by Herodotus (Histories 5.105-107) and to possibly offer a visual representation of a Greek tragedy, perhaps Aeschylus' Persians.

The images on the central part of the vase are displayed in a hierarchical way, with the gods on the top level, Darius and his court in the central one and the representation of some events (tax collection?) in the lower one.

The image on the neck show a battle between Greeks and the Persians.

MY RESEARCH

How is conflict represented on the vase? How is Darius represented? And why is the Persian king represented in the most prominent part of the vase rather than victorious Greeks?

Why reference is made here to a conflict happened more than 150 years before?