



Jar with incised decoration

Not on display

Title/Description: Jar with incised decoration

Born: 3000 c. BC - 2000 c. BC

Object Type: Vessel

Materials: Ceramic, Earthenware

Technique: Incising

Measurements: h. 140 x w. 140 x d. 140 mm

Accession Number: 359

Historic Period: Early Bronze Age, 3rd millennium BC

Production Place: Cyclades, Europe, Greece

Cultural Group: Early Cycladic I or II

Credit Line: Donated by Robert and Lisa Sainsbury, 1973

Jars such as these were made from the end of the fourth millennium BCE well into the third millennium. They have been found in grave contexts, settlement contexts, and at the sanctuary on Keros. The fact that this object is intact makes it very likely that it was found in a grave, and the nature of the decoration suggests it was made in the earlier part of the third millennium.

It is difficult to speculate on the uses of these vessels, especially in the funerary sphere. However, the small holes could have been used to suspend the object, or to tie down a lid, which would most probably have been made of stone (many hundreds of small stone discs have been found on Cycladic archaeological sites). They are very similar in form to the Early Cycladic I *kandiles*, marble versions of this shape.

Michael Boyd, April 2022

Further Reading

Broodbank, C., *An Island Archaeology of the Early Cyclades* (Cambridge University Press, 2000).

Provenance

Acquired by the Sainsbury Family in 1973. Donated to the Sainsbury Centre, University of East Anglia in 1973 as part of the original gift.
