

RELIEF DEPICTING TWO NIKE HOLDING A CROWN OF LAURELS

ROMAN, 3RD - 4TH CENTURY A.D.
MARBLE
RESTORED

HEIGHT: 65 CM.

WIDTH: 214 CM.

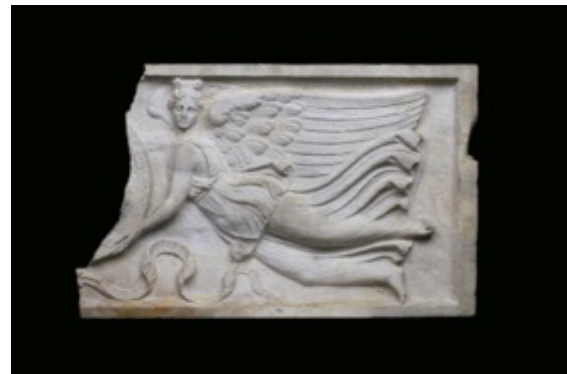
*PROVENANCE:
FORMER PARISIAN PRIVATE
COLLECTION ACQUIRED IN THE 1950S.*



This relief was originally the front of a sarcophagus, whose three other sides have not been preserved. It is composed of two winged Victories, holding a medallion at the center of the piece. The medallion, now missing, could have contained a portrait, a funerary inscription, or the head of a Gorgon, like in a similar piece of the Antalya Museum (ill. 1).

The two Victories face each other in a total symmetrical way. They are both wearing a thin tunic, which allows to observe by

transparency the forms of their legs, bellies and the detail of navels. A powerful breath from the central medallion goes through the scene, and carries the goddesses into the sky.



Relatively rare, this type of sarcophagus showing two Victories holding a medallion is not unique though. This typology seems to have been particularly popular in the Roman province of Asia, on the coasts of today Turkey (ll. 1 and 2). This relief is sculpted in a very decorative style which situates it in a rather late period, around the 3rd - 4th century A.D.



Comparatives:



Ill. 1. Sarcophagus with a Medallion, Archaeological Museum of Antalya, Turkey.



Ill. 2. : Relief depicting a Victory, archaeological site of Ephesa, Turkey.

