

BRONZE CIST

A box for holding the mirror, perfume, rouge, and other small articles for the lady's toilet. Such cists were made from the fifth to the third century B.C. The engraved designs around the middle of the body, similar in style to those on Etruscan mirrors, consist of mythological figures in combat with griffins and other monsters. Above is a border formed by animals; below, one of tendrils. The feet are in the form of lion's claws on a plinth; above each is the relief of a sphinx with long hair and outspread wings. The handle of the lid is formed by two nude human figures. The lid itself has been restored.

Fourth Century B.C.

PRAENESTE, LATIUM, ITALY

MUSEUM PURCHASE

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