

Pedestals for oil lamps from Pompeii and Herculaneum displayed in the Archaeological Museum of Naples!

After several years of research and hard work I am publishing pedestals and tripod for oil lamps from Pompeii! Publications in books, PDF and the internet are rich in these rosettes and discs combined in dozens or hundreds of pedestals of varying heights and sizes from the museum in Naples.

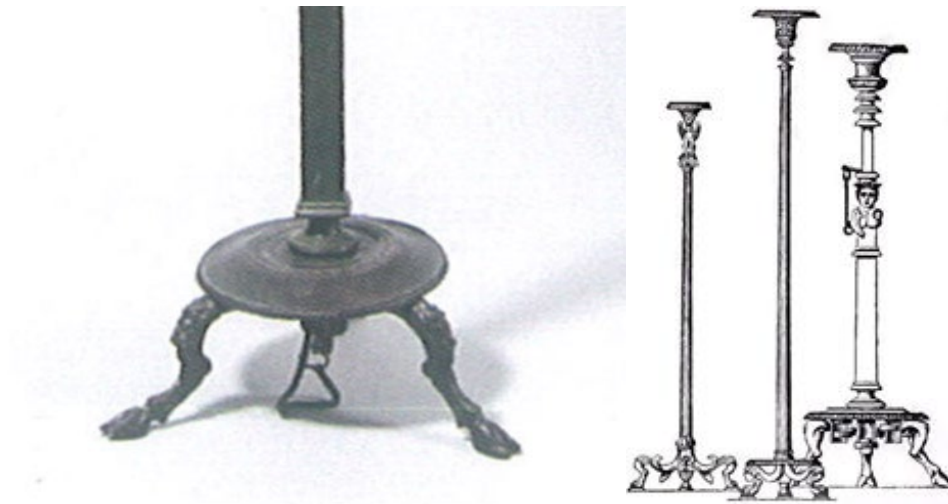


I currently have about 5 or 6 different supporting, upper part and tripod of the pedestals for oil lamps completed.



Fully functional! So delicate and fine, like from antiquity itself! A luxury item desired in every Roman villa or home! The exact historical quote attributed to the Roman Emperor Nero is:
"Good, now I can at last begin to live like a normal person".

The pedestals are made for the needs of the Roman reenactment to be disassembled into 3 parts! It is assumed that they will travel often and if they are made monolithically, this will inevitably damage them! So pins are provided for assemblies so that they do not accidentally come loose. At the same time, each pin has a chain attached to it and the pedestal so that it is not lost irretrievably in the tent in the castrum. This is a popular ancient method.



The high pedestal 132 cm. is suitable mainly for reconstructions of Roman villas and homes, where the floor will be flat and there is the possibility of leveling, which is necessary due to the height of the pedestal.

I highly recommend the shorter pedestal 35 cm. which is very stable, easy to manipulate when assembling and disassembling, and takes up much less space in luggage during transport!

Generally speaking, all pedestals for oil lamps on display in the Naples Museum are of a very high artistic value of craftsmanship and in ancient times these objects may have cost over 1000 silver denarii per piece or more and were a symbol of luxury, as the owners showed their high status to their guests by being able to own such a luxurious object!



I consider it an excellent decision to equip each pedestal with a balancing disk! Without these balancing disks, the pedestals are very unstable!

I show in detail here in my post both pedestal models by assembling and disassembling ! High 132 cm for Roman homes and villas and low one 35 cm, more stable ones for legionary castrum tents, camping!

Although everything was balanced on wax beforehand, during the casting of the brass everything changed due to the shrinkage of the metal. The height of the entire product is 132 cm. and every millimeter deviation at the base gives a large deviation from the top! Balancing on brass leads to high risks of breaking the brass because the parts are thick and distorting them by even 1 mm. is risky!



I have made each pedestal to be disassembled into 3 parts: top, tube and base. I have placed a pin everywhere, which I have attached with a chain, so that they are not lost! This is a popular ancient method! Which complicates everything even more. In antiquity, most of

them were intended to stand in villas or homes assembled solidly. Such long pedestals were not intended to be transported over long distances. This is an additional risk of damage!



Abb. 8.6: Der strigilisförmige Befestigungsstift greift oberhalb der Herminbüste des Perseus (Kat. 33) in eine seitliche Lochung des innenliegenden Erhöhungsstabes.

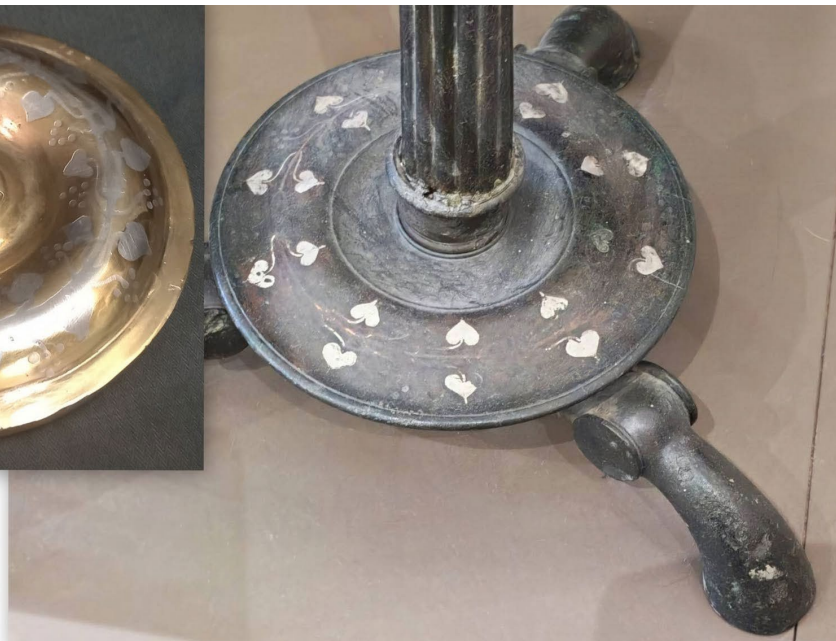


According to the archaeology described in the book „Buchkatalog Neues licht aus Pompeji“, the height of the pedestal are in great variation. Their total height is from 30 cm. to 1.40 cm. from the publications with dimensions in book „Buchkatalog Neues licht aus Pompeji“! Considering that the ancient inhabitants of these places were about 1.60 cm. tall.





Inspired by the interest and desire of our esteemed colleague Titus Aurelius and kindly provided by him book „Buchkatalog Neues licht aus Pompeji“ I started with this pseudo silver inlay, similar to those shown in the Naples museum exhibition.



The inlay of pseudo silver in the grooves of the disc and pedestal turned out great, and in a few months, when the brass changes its color to a darker shade, this pseudo silver will be perfectly visible! My disk has a diameter of 10 cm. In both pedestals, the upper and lower, the images are the same: vine leaves with curved branches and bunches of grapes!



As I work on the topic, I am once again in awe of the craftsmanship of the ancient masters, which we can hardly imitate with all this modern technology we are equipped with now!



Of course, my creative work is barely a resemblance to those works of art that came to us from Pompeii and Herculaneum, and are exhibited in the museum in Naples!

The combination of these pedestals from the Naples Museum combined with oil lamps from Pompeii is wonderful. A Pan-headed oil lamp along with a horse-headed lamp is a good combination for any Roman home or villa!



Not to mention the oil lamp with a tragic theatrical mask, which is a classic in ancient oil lamps from Pompeii!



Our two creative Pan oil lamp models are an excellent keeper for any Roman home or villa!



The relief from the lower and upper part is complex! There are reverse slopes like in the museum exhibits found in Pompeii, which makes the task of realization even more difficult!



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The top of the oil lamp pedestal ,on the disk is between 9 or 9,5 cm. in diameter.Height is between about 11 or 14 cm. depends on the model



Panther legs tripod model, there are at least 20 different models in the book "Buchkatalog Neues licht aus Pompeji"! The ancient master made them all different by hand! Just a leg, either with leaves wrapped or with lines! The variations are very large! I work by hand using an antique method, using different waxes of different hardness for different details. Where I should cut and where I should pull and knead?



In ancient times, they worked mainly with beeswax. It was an expensive raw material that was valuable. Wax was even used to pay taxes, as well as other valuable materials in ancient times.



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 Pedestal base/tripod with panther legs and vine leaves and shoots .The size I achieved is very good! About 21 cm. in diameter at the base! Height about 10 cm.I have repeatedly reviewed the publications regarding the lower part (base) tripod of the pedestal of oil lamps! I tried to focus myself on the great variety of different models from Pompeii and Herculaneum in detail! The diversity at this stage is great and the excavations are still ongoing and new models are expected to be published! I have focused on the 3-legged pedestal model, a base with panther paws, the symbol of Dionysus! The pedestal hoof is not a problem but it depends on the need! There are 3-legged pedestals with a classic, clean model, but those with a leaf surrounding the legs and additional leaves pointing upwards predominate.



On many bases there are also 3 vine leaves with shoots between the legs, which is also a symbol of Dionysus and shows the ancients' passion for wine! The rosettes above the leaves are also very diverse, with some of them being very complex, with rich decorations, while others are simply and smooth! Some models, for better balance and reliability, have a massive heavy disc/phalerae mounted ,decorated with various rosette shapes on the

pedestal/base. Most likely, these tall and difficult-to-balance pedestals were often toppled over by even slight jolts or pushes!



From the publications in archaeology, decorations and shapes are rarely repeated on the lower part of pedestals. Although dozens of models from Pompeii and Herculaneum are shown in catalogs and exhibitions! From personal experience, I can say that the masters who created the wax models were given great freedom to interpret and create at their own discretion, taking into account the fashion trends characteristic of these luxury items!



It is clear that the ancient masters worked with ease on the wax! Curves, gluing details and all this without any modern tools! No electricity! No magnifying glasses or glasses! This means that the modelers who created the wax figure were very young with excellent eyesight! As in antiquity, before metal casting, all details are carefully glued on wax models in order for the metal casting to be successful!



From archaeological publications, there are several options with a massive attachment of the rod to the pedestals by means of a massive full casting or with a connection with tin, or they are made so that they can be disassembled and reassembled using a pin.



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My disk with imitation of silver inlay has a diameter of 10 cm.

In both pedestals, the upper and lower, the images are the same: vine leaves with curved branches and bunches of grapes!



I made an imitation of this silver inlay technology that will be very similar and that is why I have carved shapes on the wax so that I can rammed the white metal inside reliably ! As I work on the topic, I am once again in awe of the craftsmanship of the ancient masters, which we can hardly imitate with all this modern technology we are equipped with now!



Of course, my creative work is barely a resemblance to those works of art that came to us from Pompeii and Herculaneum, and are exhibited in the museum in Naples!

A hole will be drilled in the middle for the installation of the guide stake and preparation for metal casting!



I created a classic pedestal for oil lamps with the legs of the panther of Dionysus. The ancient master here made the so-called "trouser" legs. These are common parallel relief stripes from the joint of the leg to the base of the pedestal.



This classic, clean panther leg pattern serves as a base for building on and further decorating with vine leaves ,shoots and branches or with an additional balancing disc /phalerae, as can be seen from finds from Pompeii in the Naples Museum.



