

HERITAGE OF POWER

ANCIENT SCULPTURE FROM WEST MEXICO

The Andraff E. Pearson Family Collection



THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

Resumo de Heritage of Power: Ancient Sculpture from West Mexico: The Andrall E. Pearson Family Collection

During the years between 300 B.C.E. and 400 C.E., peoples in a western region of Mexico lived in small, economically successful communities in a land of abundant natural resources. In these communities—now the modern Mexican states of Colima, Jalisco, and Nayarit—family lineage was important and burial sites were often conjoined to hold numerous relatives.

Ceramic objects were also buried to testify to the family's wealth; some of these were large three-dimensional human figures. These compelling figural sculptures are the focus of this book. Heritage of Power features forty sculptures from the three major stylistic areas of West Mexican ceramic sculpture, each named for one of the modern Mexican states.

While there are similarities among them (all areas produced Ancestor Pairs, for example), there are also interesting differences: representations of ballplayers and warriors were more common in Jalisco, and depictions of animals and birds were chiefly made in Colima.

This, and much more, is explored in this beautifully illustrated volume. Kristi Butterwick, an archaeologist who has long worked in West Mexico, is curator at the Foothills Art Center in Golden, Colorado. This book accompanies an exhibition at The Metropolitan Museum of Art (October 19, 2004, to April 3, 2005).

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