LOT 32
A MARBLE FIGURE OF A MUSE, BOEOTIA, ROMAN IMPERIAL, 1ST/2ND CENTURY A.D.

standing with the weight on her right leg and resting her left arm against a lyre atop a tree trunk, a plectron(?) in her right hand, and wearing a chiton tied with a belt under the breasts and himation falling from the left shoulder and draped over the legs and right forearm.

Height 33 1/2 in. 85 cm.

ESTIMATE 50,000-80,000 USD
Lot Sold: 50,000 USD

PROVENANCE
found in 1891 at Thespiae, near Mount Helikon
Elie Geladakis, Paris, 1912
private collection, Vienna and New York, acquired prior to the 1960s

LITERATURE
Journal of Roman Archaeology, vol. 7, 1903, p. 379
Salomon Reinach, Répertoire de la statuaire grecque et romaine, vol. V, Paris, 1924, no. 129, no. 2 (line drawing after a photograph by Emile Espérandieu)

CATALOGUE NOTE
The present statue emerged from the ruins of a Medieval castle in the valley below the modern village of Erimokastro. The structure was built in part of architectural fragments, statues, and inscriptions collected from surrounding sites. According to its excavator Paul Jamot, it is conceivable that the statue originally came from a hieron or sanctuary dedicated to the Muses in Roman times, and situated close to the village of Hagia Trias in the lower foothills of Mount Helikon. In antiquity Mount Helikon was considered to be the abode of Apollo and the Muses. When the statue was recorded on the art market in Paris in 1912 an ancient but alien marble head had been added to it. This head has only recently been removed.

Fig. 1
Bulletin de Correspondance Hellénique, vol. 26, 1902, p. 142, fig. 1, showing lot 32 shortly after its discovery in 1891.

Fig. 2