

## **Dionysian Images. A Few Remarks Concerning the Iconography of Dionysus and Ariadne on the Greek Vases in the Collections of the Princes Czartoryski Foundation and the National Museum in Krakow**

### **Summary**

Mythological motifs and religious scenes related to the cult of Dionysus are some of the most popular in Greek vase painting. Stories about the beginnings of the worship of Dionysius that are richer than in the case of other gods, the complexity of the god's character and his different faces contributed to the diversity of his representations. Among them prevail images of Dionysian processions, which in the archaic period (6<sup>th</sup> c. BC) are accompanied by mythological themes, supplanted in the 5<sup>th</sup> c. BC by more and more popular cult scenes. They show religious aspects of Athenians' everyday life in the classical period as well as perfectly complement and illustrate information contained in written sources. Changes in decorative motifs are accompanied by the evolution of Dionysian iconography under the influence of a particular epoch and new patterns taken from the fine arts. The analysis of Dionysian scenes depicted on several Greek vases from the collections of the Princes Czartoryski Foundation and the National Museum in Krakow enables to discuss major iconographic tendencies in the representations of Dionysus in connection with the preserved literary fragments and sculptures from the archaic and classical periods.