

ANCIENT TREASURES XIV



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Late Byzantine Silver Ring with inlaid gold signet with head of Jesus Christ

niello inlay inscription on shoulders "IC XC (*Issus Christos*)"

15th Century

max. dimension: 1 1/4 in. (3.11 cm.)

(private American collection, before 2011)

[cf: Anna Beatriz Chadour and Rüdiger Joppien, *Kunstgewerbemuseum der Stadt Köln. Schmuck II* (Köln, 1985), p. 136, nos. 208-209, p. 142, nos. 220-221]

front cover:

Greek Gold Granulated Boat-Shaped Earrings

4th Century BC

ht: 1 1/2 in. (3.8 cm.)

(private American collection, 1987; previously, private European collection, before 1968)

Published: *Golden Treasures. Wearable Antiquity* (Antiquarium Ltd. New York, 1995)

[cf: Ettore De Juliuis, *Gli Ori di Taranto in Èta Ellenistica* (Milan, 1984), pp. 151-152, cat. no. 60; and Christine Alexander, *The Art of the Goldsmith in Classical Times*. The Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, 1928), pp. 20-21, no. 49]

back cover:

Egyptian Faience *Udjat* Eye of Horus Amulet

Late Period, Dynasties XXVI-XXX, circa 664-332 BC

ht: 1 9/16 in. (4 cm.)

(private American collection, Paris market, 1986)

[cf: Carol Andrews, *Amulets of Ancient Egypt* (London, 1994), pp. 43-44 and pl. 46-f; and The British Museum, London, acc. no. EA63381]

ANCIENT TREASURES XIV



Western Asiatic Miniature Gold Ibex

early 1st Millennium BC

ht: 15/16 in. (2.3 cm.)

(private American family collection, acquired 1960's in Germany;
thence by descent)

[cf: Pierre Cambon and Jean-François Jarrige, *Afghanistan. Les Trésors Retrouvés. Collections du Musée National de Kaboul. Musée National des Arts Asiatiques-Guimet. 6 Décembre 2006-30 Avril 2007* (Paris, 2007), p. 194, no. 108; and *Christies. London. Antiquities. 6 October 2011*, no. 5]

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Near Eastern Greywacke Standing Female Idol

6th Millennium BC, Hassuna type

ht: 4 1/16 in. (10.3 cm.)

(private American collection, early 1970's)

[cf: Pierre Amiet, *Art of the Ancient Near East* (New York, 1980), p.443 and nos. 164-170, 173-174; and *Sumer. Assur. Babylon* (Paris, 1981), no. 9]



Near Eastern Calcite Seated Steatopygous Female Idol

5th Millennium BC, Halaf type

ht: 2 3/16 in. (5.5 cm.)

(private Middle Eastern collection, before 1981; previously, another private Middle Eastern collection, before 1976)

Published: *Women in Ancient Art* (Antiquarium Ltd. New York, 1997), p. 4

[cf: Pierre Amiet, *Art of the Ancient Near East* (New York, 1980), p. 444, pl. 195; and James Mellaart, *The Neolithic of the Near East* (New York, 1975), pp. 165-167, fig. 101]



Western Asiatic Red Limestone Footed Bowl

circa 2600-2500 BC

ht: 7 1/4 in. (18.4 cm.)

(private American collection, before 1979)

[cf: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, acc. no. 62.70.23; and The University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Philadelphia, acc. no. 32-20-400]



Near Eastern Bone Standing Female Idol

5th-4th Millennia BC

ht: 2 5/16 in. (5.8 cm.)

(private American collection, 2011; previously, private European collection, 1984)

Published, *The Good Life. Luxury Objects of the Ancient World* (Antiquarium Ltd. New York, 1999), p. 4

[cf: Pierre Amiet, *Art of the Ancient Near East* (New York, 1977), pl. 164-170; and *Idole. Frühe Götterbilder und Opfergaben* (Mainz am Rhein, 1985), p. 67, no. 28]



Near Eastern Copper Alloy Protome of a Harnessed Lion

early 2nd Millennium BC, Mari

ht: 5 5/16 in. (13.4 cm.)

(private French collection, 1950's-1960's. Acquired by Antiquarium Ltd. in 1986)

[cf: Pierre Amiet, *Art of the Ancient Near East* (New York, 1980), pp. 152-155, 387 and pl. 446-447; and Annie Caubet and Marthe Bäernus-Taylor, *The Louvre. Near Eastern Antiquities* (London, 1991), pp. 28-29 (no. AO 19824)]



Near Eastern Hematite Scaraboid

Classic Syrian, circa 1800-1630 BC

length: 5/8 in. (1.6 cm.)

(private American collection, early 1990's; previously, private European collection, 1980's)
[cf: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, acc. nos. 1999.325.209, 1999.325.202; and
Hans Henning von der Osten. *Ancient Oriental Seals in the Collection of Mr. Edward T. Newell*.
The University of Chicago Oriental Institute Publications. Vol. XXII (Chicago, 1934), pl.
XXVI, no. 395]



Near Eastern Gold Pendant

circa 1250-1000 BC, Tell el-Ajjul type

ht: 1 13/16 in. (4.5 cm.)

(private American collection, 1999; previously, European collection, 1970's)

[cf: K.R. Maxwell-Hyslop, *Western Asiatic Jewellery (c.3000-612 BC)*, (London, 1971), p. 135, pl. 100; and Kathleen Howard (ed.), *Treasures of the Holy Land. Ancient Art from the Israel Museum*. The Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, 1987), no. 59]



Western Asiatic Banded Alabaster Flared Bowl

late 3rd-2nd Millennia BC

ht: 2 1/8 in. (5.4 cm.)

(private American collection, before 1978)

[cf: Joan Aruz (ed.), *Art of the First Cities. The Third Millennium BC from the Mediterranean to the Indus* (New York, 2003), pp. 303-304, no. 202e; and Michèle Casanova, *La vaisselle d'albâtre de Mésopotamie, d'Iran et d'Asie Centrale aux IIIe et IIe millénaires avant J.-C.* (Paris, 1991), pl. 8, nos. 89-90]



Egyptian Veined Indurated Limestone Pilgrim Flask

New Kingdom, Dynasties XVIII-XX, circa 1550-1069 BC

ht: 4 5/8 in. (11.7 cm.)

(ex: Collection Dr. Rudolf Schmidt (1900-1970), Solothurn, Switzerland; thence by descent)

Published: Peter Günther and Rudolf Wellauer, *Ägyptische Steingefäße der Sammlung Rudolph Schmidt, Solothurn*, (Zürich, 1988), taf. 46, p. 75 and pl. 23, no. 182.

[cf: Flinders Petrie, *The Funeral Furniture of Ancient Egypt* (London, 1937), pl. XXXVI, no. 96]



Egyptian Faience Amulet of Thoth

Egyptian god of the Moon and wisdom
depicted as a striding King with the head of an Ibis
rare Egyptian blue inlay on front of integral base
early Late Period, Dynasty XXVI, circa 664-525 BC
ht: 4 15/16 in. (12.5 cm.)

(private American collection, 2011; previously, private New York collection, before 1973)
[cf: Sylvia Schoske and Dietrich Wildung, *Gott und Götter im Alten Ägypten* (Mainz am Rhein, 1992), p. 16, no. 5; *Christie's. Ancienne Collection Charles Gillot (1953-1903) 4-5 Mars 2008*, no. 117; and *Sotheby's. Antiquities. Including the Collection of the Late Lester Wolfe. New York. March 1-2, 1984*, no. 172]



Egyptian Faience Shabti

Late Period, Dynasty XXVI, 7th-6th Centuries BC

ht: 6 5/8 in. (16.8 cm.)

(private New York collection, 1986; previously, New York market)

[cf: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, acc. no. 66.99.189; The British Museum, London, acc. no. EA8974; and Jacques Aubert and Liliane Aubert, *Statuettes Égyptiennes. Chaouabtis Oucheptis* (Paris, 1973), pl. 58, no. 140]



Egyptian Falcon Head Cartonnages

original pigment

Late Period, Dynasties XXVI-XXX, circa 664-332 BC

hts: 3 1/8 in. (8 cm.), 3 1/4 in. (8.2 cm.) and 3 3/4 in. (9.4 cm.)

(private European collection, 1970's)

[cf: Peter Lacovara and Betsy Teasley Trope (eds.) *The Realm of Osiris. Mummies, Coffins and Ancient Egyptian Funerary Art in the Michael C. Carlos Museum* (Atlanta, 2001), p. 66, no. 57]



Egyptian Faience Composite Amulet of Sobek-Horus

Late Period to Ptolemaic, Dynasties XVI-XXX to 332-32 BC

ht: 1 1/16 in. (2.7 cm.) length: 2 1/16 in. (5.3 cm.)

(private European collection, 1950's-1960's; thence by descent)

Published: *Zoologica. Animals in Ancient Art* (Antiquarium Ltd. New York, 1996), p. 22

[cf: Jacobus Dijk and Carol Andrews, *Objects for Eternity. Egyptian Antiquities from the W. Arnold Meijer Collection* (Mainz, 2006), no. 3.31; and Carol Andrews, *Amulets of Ancient Egypt* (London, 1994), no. 41e]



Egyptian Diorite Heart Amulet

engraved hieroglyphic inscription on both sides:

"The Osiris, the Wab Priest, Ptah-iy (...)"

New Kingdom to Late Period, Dynasties XVIII-XXX, circa 1350-332 BC

ht: 2 in. (5.2 cm.)

(private American collection, late 1980's)

[cf: John H. Taylor (ed.), *Journey Through the Afterlife. Ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead*. The British Museum (London, 2010), p. 174, nos. 78-82; and Carol Andrews, *Amulets of Ancient Egypt* (London, 1994), pp. 72-73, pl. 61a-b]



Neolithic Greek Terracotta Steatopygous Female Idol

Thessaly, 6th Millennium BC

ht: 3 3/8 in. (8.5 cm.)

(private American collection, 1981; previously, another private American collection, early 1960's)

[cf: George Ortiz, *In Pursuit of the Absolute. Art of the Ancient World from the George Ortiz Collection. Royal Academy of Arts, London. 20 January–6 April 1994* (London, 1994), no. 42; and Demetrios R. Theocharis, *Neolithiki Hellas. Neolithic Greece* (Athens, 1973), fig. 18]



Iberian Flat Marble Idol

3000-1800 BC, Bronze Age

ht: 5 3/16 in. (13.2 cm.)

(private American collection, 2013; previously, private French collection (Georges Halphen, Paris (1913-2000), collected in the 1940's-1980's)

[cf: M.J. Almagro Gorbea, *Los idolos del Bronce I hispano* (Madrid, 1973), pp. 141-143, pl. 21-22; Agnès Spycket, *The Human Form Divine. From the Collection of Elie Borowski*. The Bible Lands Museum (Jerusalem, 2000), pp. 86-88; and Marija Gimbutas, *The Language of the Goddess* (New York, 1989), p. 54, fig. 91]



Archaic Greek Gold Jewelry Group

Graduated spherical ribbed beads with
central pomegranate pendant

Hair ornaments

Solid Cast Silver Falcon Amulet with gold
inlays, the falcon wearing an identical set
of beads.

7th-5th Centuries BC

spherical and ribbed beads diam: 5/16 and
9/16 in. (8.5 and 15 mm.)

pomegranate pendant diam: 13/16 in.

(20 mm.) falcon ht: 1 in. (25 mm.)

(private American collection, 1970's or
earlier]





Published: *Golden Treasures. Wearable Antiquity* (Antiquarium Ltd. New York, 1995); and *Ancient Treasures III* (Antiquarium Ltd. New York, 2005), p. 6
[cf: F. Marshall, Marshall, *Catalogue of Jewellery. Greek, Etruscan and Roman, in the Departments of Antiquities, British Museum* (London, 1911), p. 98, pl. XIII, no. 1194; p. 104, pl. XIV, no. 1237; pp. 151-2, pl. XXIII, no. 1490; and Wolf Rudolph, *A Golden Legacy. Ancient Jewelry from the Burton Y. Berry Collection* (Bloomington, 1995), pp.66-71, nos. 11, 12]



Eastern Greek Silver Mesomphalos Phiale

Later Classical to early Hellenistic, 4th Century BC

diameter: 6 5/16 in. (16 cm.)

(private American collection, 1989)

[cf: Donald E. Strong, *Greek and Roman Silver Plate* (London, 1979), pp. 76-77, fig. 20b and pl. 16A; and Dietrich von Bothmer, *A Greek and Roman Treasury. The Metropolitan Museum of Art Bulletin*. Vol. 42, No. 1 (New York, Summer 1984), p. 26, nos. 26-27 and p. 28, nos. 31-32]



Graeco-Persian Banded Agate Scaraboid of a Winged Griffin

original gold mount

5th Century BC

gem ht: 1/ 2 in. (1.2 cm.)

(private American collections, 1990's)

[cf: Sir John Boardman, *Greek Gems and Finger Rings. Early Bronze Age to Late Classical* (London, 1970), p. 294, pl. nos. 616-617; and F.H. Marshall, *Catalogue of the Finger Rings, Greek, Etruscan, and Roman, in the Departments of Antiquities, British Museum* (London, 1907), p.52, pl. VIII, no. 290]



Etruscan Polychrome Architectural Fragment

5th-4th Centuries BC

framed: ht: 8 13/16 x 9 3/8 in. (22.3 x 23.8 cm.)

(private New York collection, 1960's-early 1970's)

[cf: Max Kunze, *Die Welt der Etrusker. Archäologische Denkmäler aus Museen der Sozialistischen Länder* (Berlin, 1988), pp. 308-309, no. D-4.8; and The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, acc. no. 1993.443a, b]

Roman Marble Portrait Bust of a Man

mid-1st Century AD

ht: 17 1/2 in. (44.5 cm.)

(private collection (Michele Zeppo, Rome), 1960's. Subsequently acquired by Dr. Arthur Sackler, New York, 1968)

[cf: G. Lippold, *Die Skulpturen des Vatikanischen Museums. III. 2* (Berlin, 1956), 72 ff. cat. no. 612, pl. 37, 38; and Antonio Giuliano, *Museo Nazionale Romano. Le Sculture* (Rome, 1981), pp. 274-277, no. 170]





Roman Bronze Lamp in the shape of a Dolphin

1st-2nd Centuries AD

ht: 3 9/16 in. (9 cm.) length: 5 in. (12.7 cm.)

(private American collection, 1970's)

[cf: The British Museum, London, acc. no. 1859.0216.135]



Roman Bronze Figure of Drunken Herakles

reclining nude on the skin of the Nemean Lion, his club cast aside, drinking from a kantharos

1st-2nd Centuries AD

length: 3 in. (7.6 cm.)

(private Austrian collection, 1995)

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[cf: The British Museum, London, acc. nos. 1772.0302.146 and 1824.0446.10]



Roman Cornelian Intaglio of Herakles confronting Ladon

The serpent guarding the Garden of the Hesperides

A scene from the Hero's Eleventh Labor retrieving the golden apples of the Hesperides for King Eurystheus

1st-2nd Centuries AD

ht: 1/2 in. (1.2 cm.)

(private American collection, before 2000)

[cf: Classical Art Research Centre and The Beazley Archives, acc. nos. T374.

For a Roman lamp with the same iconography, cf: The British Museum, London, acc. no. 1856.1226.478]



Roman Bronze Chariot Fitting or Protome of Aphrodite

2nd-3rd Centuries AD

ht: 5 1/4 in. (13.3 cm.)

(private European collection, acquired 1971)

[cf: Lucia Pierzio Stefanelli et al., *Il Bronzo dei Romani. Arredo e Suppellettile. Il Metallo.*

Mito e Fortuna nel Mondo Antico (Rome, 1990), p. 135, no. 79, and p. 146, nos. 95-97; and

David Gordon Mitten and Suzannah F. Doeringer, *Master Bronzes from the Classical World* (Cambridge, 1968), p. 293, nos. 289a-b]



Roman Woven Silver Necklace

2nd-3rd Centuries AD

overall necklace length: 16 1/2 in. (41.9 cm.)

(private European collection, 1970's)

[cf: F.H. Marshall, *Catalogue of the Jewellery, Greek, Etruscan and Roman, in the Departments of Antiquities, British Museum* (London, 1911) pp. 314-315, pl. LVIII, nos. 2720, 2719; and Ludmila Ruseva-Slokoska, *Roman Jewellery* (Sofia, 1991), p. 151, cat. no. 134]



Roman Bronze Bust of a Satyr

original inlaid silver detail in garland, eyes, mouth and buccal glands on chin

1st Century AD

ht: 3 1/4 in. (8.3 cm.)

(private European collection, 2006; previously, German market)

[cf: L. Pirzio Biroli Stefanelli, *Il Bronzo dei Romani. Arredo e Suppellettile. Il Metallo. Mito e Fortuna nel Mondo Antico* (Rome, 1990), pp. 146-147, figs. 95-100; and David Gordon Mitten and Suzannah F. Doeringer, *Master Bronzes of the Classical World* (Mainz on Rhine, 1967), p. 396, no. 294]



Roman Mold-Blown Glass Head Vase of a Nubian Youth

2nd-3rd Centuries AD, European workshop

ht: 7 5/8 in. (19.5 cm.)

(private European collection, 1960's)

[cf: Fritz Fremersdorf, *Die Denkmäler des Römischen Köln. Römisches Geformtes Glas in Köln* (Köln, 1961), p. 76, taf. 167-168, no. 761; and E. Marianne Stern, *The Toledo Museum of Art. Roman Mold-Blown Glass. The First Through Sixth Centuries* (Toledo, 1995), pp. 210-211, fig. 92]

Roman Bronze Statue of Venus gazing into a mirror

2nd-3rd Centuries AD

ht: 11 5/8 in. (29.4 cm.)

(private American collection, acquired early to mid 1980's)

[cf: Harvard Art Museums, Arthur M. Sackler Museum, Cambridge, acc. no. 1971.30; and *Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae*, Aphrodite no. 526.]





Later Imperial Roman Marble Head of Eros

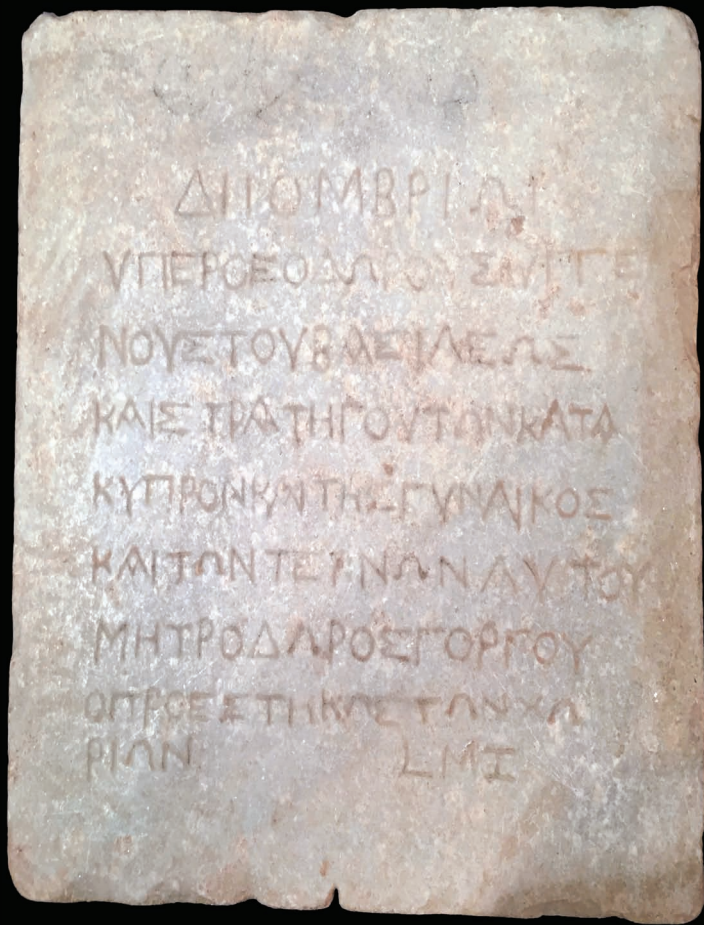
A rare instance with a profound Gandharan stylistic influence,
traces of original red pigment and silver inlaid eyes

3rd Century AD

ht: 8 15/16 in. (22.7 cm.)

(private American family collection (Mme. E.M.L.), originally acquired in Egypt, 1946;
thence by descent)

[cf: The Ashmolean Museum, Eastern Art Online, Yousef Jameel Centre for Islamic and
Asian Art, Oxford, acc. no. EA1996.68; and The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York,
acc. nos. 1987.424.23 and 1987.142.386a-c]



Roman Marble Dedicatory Panel

late 3rd-4th Century AD, reportedly found in Alexandria

height x width: 14 3/16 x 14 3/16 in. (36 x 36 cm.)

(private American family collection (Mme. E.M.L.), originally acquired in Egypt, 1946; thence by descent)

Greek inscription:

"To Zeus Ombrios [of thunder storms] / On behalf of Theodoros the relative [cousin, etc] Of the King / And Commander of those in / Cyprus, and [on behalf] of his wife And [on behalf] of his children / Metrodaros [son of] Gorgos / The leader [person set up in front of] of the / Carians [set up this dedication] LMI"

[cf: Biblioteca Alexandrina Antiquities Museum, Greco-Roman Antiquities, BAAM Serial #0234]



A Later Roman Mottled Jasper “Magical” Gemstone

2nd-4th Centuries AD, Eastern Empire
ht. x width: 11/16 x 3/4 in. (18 x 19.8 mm.)
(private American collection)

The gemstone is carved in intaglio with an image of the Serpent *Chnoubis*, the coils of the snake interspersed with the Greek inscription:

“ΙΑ / ΧΝΟΥΜΙ/Σ ΝΑΒΙΣ / ΒΙΦΩΟ/ΙΘ ΒΑΡ/ΩΦΙΚΙΑ Γ/(ΙΓΑΝ)ΤΟΡΗ/ΚΤΑ ΕΙΦΙΡΙΦ”

This is a garbled version of a magic formula invoking the God *Chnoubis/ Chnoumis*, a combination of the Egyptian Decan god, *Knem* with the Egyptian creator-god, *Chnum*, and the Theban Egyptian primordial snake-god, *Kneph(is)*, here given the epithet “snake-destroyer/ giant-striker”, which may refer to the story in *Genesis 6* of the giants being offspring of the sons of the Hebrew deity and human women. The spell then employs the transliterated Hebrew for “bound by chains/ incantations”. The last word is new and unexplained.

An amulet of this nature would presumably have been used for ailments of the heart, uterus or stomach.

[cf: Simone Michel, *Die Magischen Gemmen im Britischen Museum. Band I* (Berlin, 2004), taf. 45, pp. 193-195, no. 304]



**A Later Roman Mottled Jasper “Magical” Gemstone for
*Alimonius Plebeius***

2nd-4th Centuries AD, Eastern Empire
ht. x width: 1 1/16 x 13/16 in. (27.8 x 20.9 mm.)
(private American collection)

The gemstone is carved in intaglio with an abbreviated “Wing” Formation *Magic Square* of Greek vowels.

The seven vowels represent the seven observable planets, with the name of the Hebrew deity, *IAO* embedded. The sequence can be read as “*Hail Iao*” followed by the Tetragrammaton for the ineffable name of the Hebrew deity.

On the reverse, the inscription names the individual intended to benefit from the incantation, imploring “*You will know Alimonius Plebeius, the son of Salomone*”.

Some Aramaic text is an addition from the 7th-8th Centuries, including the word for “fish”, the epithet, “like water”, and “*Ta-Ha*”, the twentieth chapter of the *Qur’an* where the existence of God is established with references to the stories of Adam and of Moses.

An amulet of this nature would presumably have been used for foreknowledge/ memory, for general protection, for the safe ascent through the heavens in the afterlife, or for all of the above.

[cf: Simone Michel, *Die Magischen Gemmen im Britischen Museum. Band I* (Berlin, 2004), taf. 74, pp. 303-304, nos. 496-497; and Jeffrey Spier, *Late Antique and Early Christian Gems* (Wiesbaden, 2007), cat. nos. 477, 478, p. 84]



Later Eastern Roman Sandal-Shaped Bronze Seal of "AXILE"

3rd-5th Centuries

length: 3 3/4 in. (9.6 cm.)

(private American collection, acquired 1970's)

[cf: Ludwig Wamser and Gisela Zahlhaas (eds.), *Rom und Byzance. Archäologische Kostarbeiten aus Bayern* (Munich, 1998) pp. 152-153, no. 172]



An Important Roman Bronze Sheet Manumission Inscription

3rd Century AD

ht x width: 3 9/16 x 5 in. (9 x 12.7 cm.)

(private New York collection, 1995)

Greek inscription attesting to the manumission of the slave Afroditia and cursing whomever might enslave her again:

"To good fortune

Timokrateia sets free Afroditia in the presence of the other gods and of Athene.

Those (fem.) who are going to enslave ... he who enslaved Afroditia should be homeless. Witnesses to the god"

[cf: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, acc. nos. 23.160.50 and 23.160.53]



A Matched Pair of Roman Glass Wine Cups

1st-2nd Centuries AD

ht: 4 3/8 and 4 1/8 in. (11 and 10.5 cm.)

(private European collection, 1990's or earlier)

[cf: Susan Matheson, *Ancient Glass in the Yale University Art Gallery* (New Haven, 1979), nos. 112, 113; and David Whitehouse, *Roman Glass in the Corning Museum of Glass. Volume One* (Corning, NY; 1997), no. 387]



Byzantine Bronze Wine Dish

5th-7th Centuries AD

ht: 2 13/16 in. (7.2 cm)

(private Swiss collection (AG collection), acquired in the 1970's)
Greek inscription around the rim:

“οταν πωμα λαβωμεν, ευδουσιν αι μεριμναι, φροντιδας δε μεθωμεν”

“When we take a drink, our cares go to sleep and we let our worries go”

[cf: The British Museum, London, acc. nos. 1890.0701.4, 1887.114.1; and Ludwig Wamser and Gisela Zahlhaas, *Rom und Byzance. Archäologische Kostarbeiten aus Bayern* (Munich, 1998), pp. 115-118, nos. 119-122]





Italian Renaissance Fresco Panel of the Death of St. Francis

15th Century, Umbria or Tuscany

ht. x width: 46 1/16 x 34 1/2 in. (117 x 87.6 cm), as mounted on textile

(Paris market, 2007)

Accompanied by Ministero per I Bene e le Attività Culturali Export Document (dated 11 July 2001)

Pigment Analysis by ASA, GmbH, Paris (Ref. 19.15.25-OA3137 (dated 14 November 2003)
[cf: Domenico Ghirlandaio, Capella Sassetti, Basilica di Santa Trinita, Florence (1483-1486)]

Antique Italian Onyx Cameo of the Lovers, Angelica and Medoro

from Ariosto's widely popular epic poem, *Orlando furioso* (1516-1532)

late 17th-18th Centuries, in a 19th Century gold mount

ht. x width: 1 5/16 x 15/16 in. (3.3 x 2.4 cm.)

(private American collection, before 2000)

Angelica has saved the wounded Saracen knight and they carve their names into a tree as they elope to Cathay. The composition is recognizable from illustrated editions of the poem, the subject popular in Romantic paintings of the 17th and 18th Centuries.

[cf: The Victoria and Albert Museum, London, acc. no. M.305:1, 2-1921; and François Boucher, *Angelica and Medoro*. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, acc. no. 1982.60.46]



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