

Basic Detail Report

**Title**

Beaker with Engraved Bacchic Imagery (The Worringen Beaker)

Date

Late 3rd to mid-4th century CE

Dimensions

H. 20.4 cm (8 in.), Rim Diam. 13.3 cm (5 1/4 in.), Base Diam. 5.7 cm (2 1/4 in.)

Medium

Free-blown glass, lathe-turned and wheel-engraved.

Classifications

Glass

Credit Line

Purchased with funds from the Libbey Endowment, Gift of Edward Drummond Libbey

Object number

1930.6

Published References

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Collections

Glass

Label Text

The Worringen Beaker, named for its reported discovery in the Worringen district of Cologne (Germany), exemplifies late Roman glassworking with its refined lathe-turning and wheel-engraving techniques. Its

size, craftsmanship, and iconographic richness have made it a centerpiece in scholarly studies of late antique glass. The beaker depicts feasting and reclining figures, perhaps associated with the world of the wine god Dionysus. The central scene depicts a reclining male figure pouring liquid into a bowl held by a partially nude female, with another clothed woman nearby. The composition is enriched by architectural elements, such as a multi-storied structure, and naturalistic details, including tree and fish. It remains unclear whether the scene is generic or a representation of a specific myth. First documented in 1881 as part of Carl Damian Disch's collection, this substantial beaker is among the earliest Roman glass objects studied from the region. It passed through prominent collections, including that of Alexander Basilewsky, before arriving at the Toledo Museum of Art in 1930.

Not On View