

Basic Detail Report

Title

Portrait Medallion (Phalera) of a Julio-Claudian Prince

Date

First quarter of the first century CE

Dimensions

Diam: 1 1/2 in. (3.8 cm); Max Thickness: 3/8 in. (1 cm)

Medium

Mold-pressed blue glass, cast in an open, one-piece mold, fire-polished, with tooling marks on the underside.

Classifications

Glass

Credit Line

Gift of Edward Drummond Libbey

Object number

1923.1646

Published References

Boschung, Dietrich, "Römische Glasphalerae mit Porträtbüsten," *Bonner Jahrbucher* 187, 1987, no. 18, p. 241, Abb. 64.

Ferrari, Gloria, "Felicior Augusto: portrait medallions in glass and the Ravenna relief," *Opuscula Romana* XVII: 4, 1989, pp. 35, 59, fig. 5, p. 37. pam file

Grose, David F., *Early Ancient Glass: Core-Formed, Rod-Formed, and Cast Vessels and Objects from the Late Bronze Age to the Early Roman Empire, 1600 B.C. to A.D. 50*, New York, Hudson Hills Press in association with the Toledo Museum of Art, 1989, cat. no. 676, p. 371.

Collections

Glass

Label Text

This glass phalera, or military decoration, was crafted in the first quarter of the first century CE and likely depicts a Julio-Claudian prince, possibly Germanicus, with his son, Tiberius Gemellus. Roman phalerae were typically affixed to armor or worn as military awards, signifying the recipient's loyalty or achievements. The Toledo phalera, molded in dark blue glass, features a central portrait bust clad in a cuirass, flanked by two smaller heads (one now missing). Scholars have suggested this example may represent Drusus Minor and his twin sons, suggesting it was issued ca. 20 CE. Similar medallions have been found at Vindonissa, a major Roman military site, reinforcing the interpretation that such objects were awarded to soldiers serving on the frontier.

Not On View