

Basic Detail Report

**Title**

Set of Twelve Cochlearia Spoons (snail spoons)

Date

150-100 BCE

Dimensions

L: 4 1/8 in. (10.5 cm) to 4 1/4 in. (10.8 cm); Diam (bowls): 1/2 in. (1.3 cm) to 9/16 in. (1.4 cm); Weights: 3.5 to 4.4 grams

Medium

Silver

Classifications

Metalwork

Credit Line

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

Object number

1984.68A-L

Published References

Oliver, Andrew Jr., "New Hellenistic Silver: Mirror, Emblem Dish and Spoons," *Jahrbuch der Berliner Museen*, vol. 19,

1977, pp. 13-22.

"Important Egyptian, Classical, and Near Eastern Antiquities, Sotheby Catalogue, June 10 and 11, 1983," New York, 1983, lot 110.

Exhibition History

The Toledo Museum of Art; Kansas City, Atkins Museum of Fine Art; Fort Worth, The Kimbell Art Museum, *Silver for the Gods: 800 Years of Greek and Roman Silver*, 1977-1978, no. 54, p. 91.

Collections

Decorative Arts

Label Text

The ancient Greeks and Romans used this type of small, slender-handled spoon, called a cochlear, for eating snails, shellfish, and eggs. These are the smallest and earliest snail spoons known in Greek or Roman silver tableware. Less luxurious examples of the same shape have been found in bone. However, ancient Greeks and Romans typically used minimal tableware, instead eating with their fingers.

On View

Toledo Museum of Art (2445 Monroe Street), Gallery, 02, Classic