

FLASK IN THE FORM OF A WINESKIN

Roman, 1st century A.D.

Glass

Height: 8.6 cm (3.4 in)

Reference: 1985



Roman glass vessels, which shapes follow natural forms, are not infrequent, they copy a bunch of grapes, pine cone, date, acorn, fish, bird, and even a human face. Other category of vessels imitates objects made by a human hand such as a woven basketry jar, transport amphora, barrel, or, as it is one here, a leather container for wine, a wineskin made of the animal skin, often sewn up from the goat skin. Such a vessel is very rare and does not find a direct analogy. Made of a transparent light-greenish glass using the free-blown technique, it demonstrates the extraordinary technical virtuosity.

vessel).

CONDITION

Complete; the mouth was reassembled from a few fragments; surface cleaned, inside covered with some iridescence and crust.

PROVENANCE

Acquired on the European art market, c.a. 1980's.

EXHIBITED

TEFAF New York, Spring 2017

SOFA Chicago, November 2017

BIBLIOGRAPHY

KUNINA N., *Ancient Glass in the Hermitage Collection*, St. Petersburg, 1997, pp. 327-328, nos. 377-378.

STERN E. M., *The Toledo Museum of Art, Roman Mold-blown Glass, The First Through Sixth Centuries*, Toledo, 199, p. 154, no 59 (basket-shape