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Greek Bronze Corinthian Helmet



An ancient Greek bronze helmet of the Corinthian type, of upright bell-shaped form with almond shaped eye holes, cheek pieces that leave a wide vertical opening for the mouth, and a perforated border, which once secured an inner lining; with battle damage over the brow, and inscribed on both sides, naming the owner, "of (belonging to) Gelios the Megarian."

Ca. 625 - 550 BC.
Height: 8 1/4 in. (21 cm).

The Corinthian helmet was first developed in the Peloponnese in the early 7th century BC. Its closed form, shielding the face of the soldier, was preferred by generations of hoplites in their distinctive phalanx combat. The early examples are austere and upright. Later examples have extended cheek pieces, carinated upper sections, and finely worked borders. The Corinthian helmet fell out of use in the later 5th century BC.

cf.: for similar early Corinthian helmets, R. Hixenbaugh and A. Valdman, Ancient Greek Helmets: a Complete Guide and Catalog, (New York, 2019), cat. nos. C155 - C220.

Formerly in the Kuizenga collection, The Netherlands; acquired at Christie's, Amsterdam, October 6, 1983, lot 383.

inventory number: 9002

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