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Greek Bronze Illyrian Helmet



An ancient Greek bronze helmet of the Illyrian type, with raised crest lines, an angular neck guard and a carefully worked pseudo-rivet border that rises to a point at the ear.

Purportedly found in the Danube River.
Ca. 500 - 420 BC.
Height: 9 in. (22.8 cm); weight: 1422 gm.

The Illyrian helmet was first developed in the Peloponnese in the mid-7th century BC and continued to be produced into the mid-5th century BC. The main design feature was the large quadrangular opening for the face and integral channel over the top to accommodate the horse hair crest. Earlier examples have borders of large rivets, later ones have plain, incised or punched borders.

Published: R. Hixenbaugh and A. Valdman, Ancient Greek Helmets: a Complete Guide and Catalog, 2019, cat. no. I301.

Formerly in the Bischoff collection, Vienna, Austria, 1980s; Hermann-Historica auction, Munich, May 15, 2003, lot 115; with Jean-David Cahn, Basel, Switzerland, 2003; subsequently in a Connecticut private collection.

inventory number: 9286

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