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Greek Bronze Illyrian Helmet



An ancient Greek bronze helmet of the Illyrian type, with raised parallel crest lines, a raised vertical band above the brow, a curved broad neck guard and a border of large rivets that once secured the inner lining.

Ca. 600 - 550 BC.
Height: 10 1/4 in. (26 cm).

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.

cf.: A. Mallwitz & H.-V. Herrmann, Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Die Funde aus Olympia, (Athens, 1980), p. 91-2. Pl. 51; E. Kunze, Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, VI. Bericht über die Ausgrabungen in Olympia, (Berlin, 1958); pls. 47-48; Bottini, Hase, Egg, Pflug, et al., Antike Helme, Sammlung Lipperheide und Andere Bestände des Antikenmuseums Berlin, (Mainz, 1988), pp. 42-64.

Formerly in the Kuizenga collection, The Netherlands; previously in a Belgian private collection, 1990s.

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