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235 EAST 60TH STREET
NEW YORK NY 10022
212.989.9743 / 646.326.0820
WWW.HIXENBAUGH.NET
INFO@HIXENBAUGH.NET

# Egyptian Black Stone Lidded Kohl Vessel



An ancient Egyptian Middle Kingdom black stone lidded kohl vessel with broad flat separately carved rim, disk foot, and knobbed circular lid.

Middle Kingdom.
Ca. 2040 - 1782 BC.
Height: 1 3/4 in. (4.4 cm).

Black galena (lead sulfide) based kohl (Egyptian: mesmedet) was not only used for beauty but also for religious, symbolic, and practical reasons as it worked as a natural disinfectant and protected the eyes from the bright sunlight.

Formerly in the Dr. Rolland Bay collection, Basel, Switzerland, 1950s; Christie's, London, April 21, 1999, lot 48; collection of Jerome Eisenberg, New York.

*inventory number: 9553*

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