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Egyptian Serpentine Lidded Kohl Vessel



An ancient Egyptian Middle Kingdom serpentine lidded kohl vessel with magnetite inclusions.

Middle Kingdom.
Ca. 2040 - 1782 BC.
Diameter: 2 in. (5.1 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 collection of Jerome Eisenberg, New York.

inventory number: 9558

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