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Roman Glass Patella Cup

An ancient Roman patella cup cast in opaque light blue glass, with a horizontal rim, the bowl formed of two convex curves, flaring foot is slightly concave on underside.

Ca. 1st century AD.
Diameter: 3 in. (7.7 cm)

Ancient glass manufacture had begun in the 2nd millennium BC in Mesopotamia and Egypt. The Greeks and Phoenicians advanced glass technology greatly in the latter 1st millennium BC. In the early 1st century AD, Roman workshops began producing blown glass on a large scale. Eventually glass vessels came to replace a wide variety of pottery and metal wares in the ancient world. Ancient Roman glass was traded far beyond the Roman empire. Roman glass vessels have been found in Scandinavia, India, and in Han Dynasty tombs in China.

Cf. S. M. Goldstein, Pre-Roman and Early Roman Glass in The Corning Museum of Glass, (Corning, 1979), no. 301.

Formerly in an English private collection; acquired at Christie's, New York, December 9, 1999, lot 466.

inventory number: 9727

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