

ART ANCIEN



HELLENISTIC GLASS FINGER RING

Circa 2nd-3rd century BC

Diameter: 4.55 cm

UK Ring size Q½ - R½ (US 8.5 - 9)

PROVENANCE

From the collection of Paul Adamidi bey Frashëri (1904-1987)

Hotel Drouot, Collection de son Excellence Le Bey Paul Adamidi Frasher, 1 March 1971, Lot 17

Subsequently in the collection of Monsieur Lottmann, Paris.

This beautifully preserved ring was cast from light green transparent glass. Its large size and shape are typical of Hellenistic finger rings, and its now empty oval bezel would originally have been decorated.

Jewellery was produced in abundance during Hellenistic times. Earrings, necklaces, bracelets, rings were all treasured goods passed down through several generations. The materials used to craft them ranged from gold and silver to bone, crystal and glass, as this ring beautifully demonstrates. The use of glass, on its own or combined with other materials, allowed Hellenistic jewellers to create attractive visual effects playing on light, transparency and contrast.



'Go, happy ring, who art about to bind
The fair one's finger; may the fair be kind.
Small the present, tho' the love be great;
May she swift slip thee on thy taper seat.'

Ovid (43 BC - 17/18 AD), Amores II.XV