

Abb. 2014-3/27-01

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August 2014

Ennion: Master of Roman Glass

Exhibition The Metropolitan Museum of Art December 9, 2014–April 13, 2015

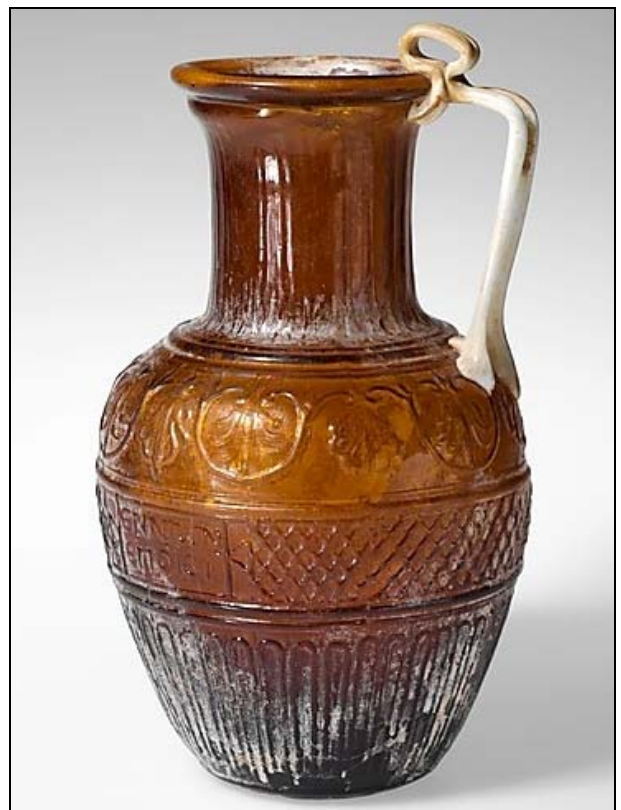
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Glass jug, signed by Ennion the Glass Maker
 Period: Early Imperial, Julio-Claudian, Culture: Roman
 Date: 1st half of 1st century A.D.
 Medium: Glass; mold-blown, H 19.1 × 10.6 cm, D rim 7 cm
 Credit Line: Gift of J. Pierpont Morgan, 1917
 Accession Number: 17.194.226
 Sammlung Metropolitan Museum of Art

Glassmaking originated around **2500 B.C.** in **Mesopotamia**, and by the **mid-first millennium B.C.** it had spread **throughout the ancient world**. The number of artifacts and vessels made from glass remained limited, however, until the introduction of two important technical advances - the use of the **blowpipe** and closed **multipart molds** - in the **late first century B.C.** and the **early first century A.D.**, respectively. These advances revolutionized the glass industry under the **Roman Empire**, and some vessels - or fragments of vessels - from this period already bear the names of the glass-makers, who "**signed**" their **molds**.

Ennion made the most outstanding **Roman mold-blown glass** in the early first century A.D. and products of his workshop are the focus of the **exhibition Ennion: Master of Roman Glass**, opening December 9 at **The Metropolitan Museum of Art**.

This is the **first exhibition of ancient glass** organized by the Metropolitan, which has one of the finest collections of this material in the world. The exhibition is made possible by Diane Carol Brandt, The Vlachos Family Fund, and The David Berg Foundation.



Glassware - primarily jugs and cups - signed by **Ennion** was traded over a vast area that spanned the **entire Mediterranean world** and has been found in archaeological digs from **Israel to Spain**. Of the **37 complete**

or **fragmentary vessels** in the exhibition, **24** are by **Ennion**, including the Metropolitan Museum's 3 signed pieces. Examples by other named glassmakers of the period - including the only two intact works by Ennion's closest rival, **Aristeas**, as well as beakers signed by **Jason**, **Neikais**, and **Meges** - will also be presented. A selection of **unsigned blown glass** that illustrates Ennion's profound influence on the nascent Roman glass industry will also be on view, including **12 examples of Roman glass** from the permanent collection of the Metropolitan Museum.

The exhibition features works from museums and private collections in **Europe, Israel, and the United States**. Lenders to the exhibition are The Corning Museum of Glass; Israel Antiquities Authority and the Israel Museum, Jerusalem; Eretz Israel Museum, Tel Aviv; The British Museum; the Louvre; Museo di Antichità, Turin; Musei Civici, Pavia; Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Adria; Yale University Art Gallery; Newark Museum; Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, Virginia; Shlomo Moussaieff Collection, Israel; Yunwai

Lou Collection, New York; and the Strada Collection, Scaldasole.

A **catalogue** suitable for nonspecialists will accompany the exhibition. Published by The Metropolitan Museum of Art and distributed by Yale University Press, the catalogue will be available in the Museum's book shops.

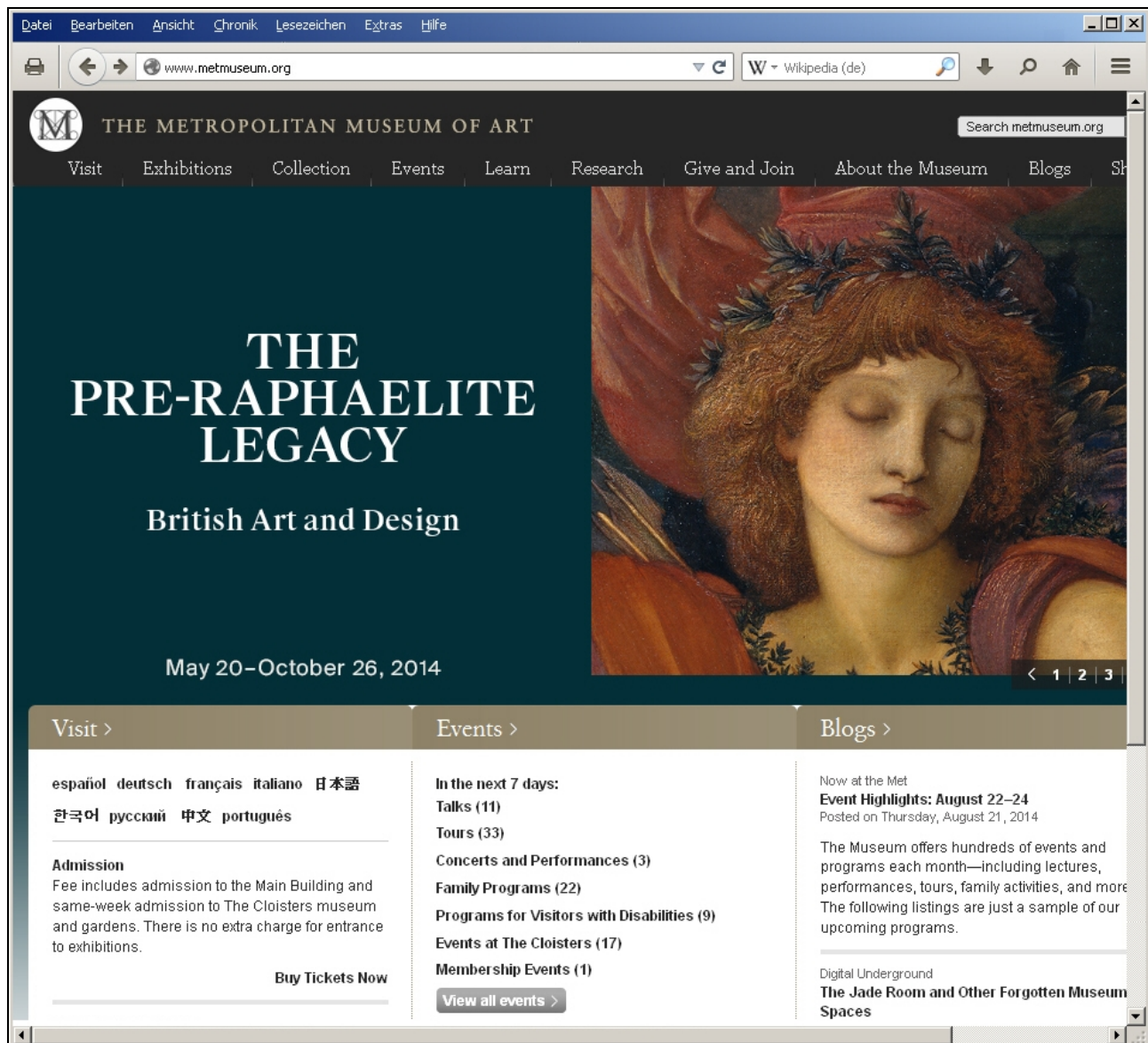
Education programs will include exhibition tours and a lecture.

The exhibition was organized by **Christopher S. Lightfoot**, Curator, Department of Greek and Roman Art.

The exhibition will be featured on the Museum's website at www.metmuseum.org.

After the presentation at the Metropolitan Museum, the exhibition will be shown at **The Corning Museum of Glass (May 15–October 19, 2015)**.

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