

Ancient Bronze Pieces

Beautifully decorated miniature armor

Artist: unknown
Date: II century B.C.
Dimensions: 32,2 x 15,8 cm
Material: bronze
Inventory no: 65730

STATE OF PRESERVATION

The armor is encrusted with various organic residues and corrosion.

RESTORATION PROJECT

- Cleaning and eliminating the corrosive salt by-products
- Washing
- Mechanical cleaning
- Stabilizing the residual products of corrosion
- Consolidation of the fractures (so they can be reassembled)
- Protective final layer
- Creation of a support to display the piece
- Analysis XRF, FT IR (study of the metal) and SEM/EDS
- Photographic documentation

Total Cost € 2.900,00



► The miniature armor in the Profane Museum, which is decorated with swinging leaves of acanthus and the head of a Gorgon, can be seen as the minute reproduction of a *lorica* (ancient Roman armor) and possibly was part of a larger composition of a trophy. This small trophy composition was an imitation of the real armament (*simulacrum spoliolum*) and was reserved for those who belonged to the high charges of the militia, but were not at the rank of generals and emperors.

Monuments and trophies together with the expositions of weapons and war booty, were given to the emperors and ranking soldiers after their victorious return from battle. Trophies could form a monument or be used to decorate monumental constructions like arches, doors of the city, etc. Also, trophies and armors were an integral part of the ritual for the triumph in which the spoils of war were given to the generals. We have archaeological documentation of these rites, such as the friezes on the triumphal arches that decorate Rome.