

	<p>Object: Leda and the Swan</p> <p>Museum: Museum August Kestner Trammplatz 3 30159 Hannover (0511) 168-42730 museen- kulturgeschichte@hannover- stadt.de</p> <p>Collection: Ancient Cultures, Gemmen, Kameen und Glaspasten. Die Sammlung geschnittener Steine</p> <p>Inventory number: K 48</p>
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Description

Among Zeus' many loves was Leda, wife of King Tyndareos of Sparta. In the form of a swan, he impregnated her. Leda gave birth to two eggs and a total of four children. From the first egg, descended from Zeus, hatch Helen and Polydeukes (Pollux); from Tyndareos, with whom Leda had intercourse the same night, come Clytemnestra and Castor from the second egg.

The approach of Zeus to Leda is shown in this gem. (AVS)

Former collection August Kestner, Rome

Basic data

Material/Technique: Carnelian / carved
Measurements: Height: 1.34 cm, width: 0.93 cm

Events

Created	When	1-50 CE
	Who	
	Where	Mediterranean Basin
Collected	When	
	Who	August Kestner (1777-1853)
	Where	Rome

[Relation to
person or
institution]

When

Who

Leda

Where

Keywords

- Engraved gem
- Swan
- Well

Literature

- Schlüter, Margildis - Platz-Horster, Gertrud (1975): Antike Gemmen in deutschen Sammlungen IV. Hannover, Kestner Museum, Hamburg, Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe. Wiesbaden, 190 Nr. 943, Taf. 124