

	<p>Object: Fragment of a vessel</p> <p>Museum: Museum August Kestner Trammplatz 3 30159 Hannover (0511) 168-42730 museen- kulturgeschichte@hannover- stadt.de</p> <p>Collection: Ancient Cultures, Glas der Antike</p> <p>Inventory number: 1863c</p>
--	---

Description

On 9 March 1832, August Kestner presented this fragment of a vessel in cameo glass technique at the adunances of the Instituto di Corrispondenza Archeologica. What he did not know at the time was the special production technique of these vessels, glass pottery. Similar to the production of relief ceramics, the hot, white glass mass is first placed in a moulding bowl with negatively incised decoration by rotary pressing. Then the blue, so-called matrix is pressed into the mould rotating on the potter's wheel with a punch. Since glass, unlike clay in the drying process, does not shrink during cooling, the mould is then carefully smashed to remove the finished vessel. In this way, each vessel made using this technique is unique. Until the 1990s, the archaeological doctrine was that the so-called cameo jars were created by overlaying the coloured vessel with white glass, as in the production of cameos from multi-layered gemstones, by carving out the positive relief image.

The degree of curvature of the vessel's lip and steep wall suggests a calculated circumference of about 36 cm. It would be possible to reconstruct a drinking vessel in the form of a scyphos or a kantharos, each with two ring handles with a thumb plate. Glass vessels of this technique are typical of the table luxury of Augustan classicism.

The interpretation of the depicted preserved figures is problematic. The clothing (undergarment, himation) and attributes (scroll, beaded bandage) of the bearded older man refer to a heroised poet, possibly Homer, the staff and sceptre of the throne holder to a deity.

Former August Kestner Collection, Rome

Detailed description

Bruchstück einer Gefäßwandung mit profiliertem Rand. Auf dunkelblauem Grund sitzt ein bärtiger mit einer Binde geschmückter und einem Himation bekleideter Mann, der in der

rechten Hand eine Buchrolle hält. Dahinter sitzt ein jüngerer bärtiger Mann auf einem Thron, der sich mit der Rechten auf einem Stab stützt. Den Unterkörper bedeckt ein Mantel, dessen Zipfel über den linken, am Oberschenkel aufliegenden Unterarm gebreitet ist. Die hinter dem Jüngling erhaltenen Reste eines Gewandes lassen auf eine weitere, stehende Figur schließen.

Basic data

Material/Technique:	Glass / dark blue, opaque white - glass pottery (hot molding in the mold bowl)
Measurements:	Height: 3.5 cm, width: 4.9 cm

Events

Created	When	25 v. Chr.-80 n. Chr.
	Who	
	Where	Rome
Collected	When	1831
	Who	August Kestner (1777-1853)
	Where	Rome
[Relation to person or institution]	When	
	Who	Homer
	Where	

Keywords

- Deity
- Glasherstellung
- Glass
- Poet

Literature

- Liepmann, Ursula (1982): Glas der Antike. Hannover, 130 Nr. 174
- Liepmann, Ursula - Rammlmair, Dieter (2002): Ein augusteisches Kameoglas im Kestner-Museum zu Hannover. Niederdeutsche Beiträge zur Kunstgeschichte 41, 9-36