



Bronze Moon Pendant With Anthropomorphic Face. Finland Or Gotland, 14th Century.



1 100 EUR

Period : Before 16th century

Condition : En l'etat

Description

Bronze crescent-moon pendant with anthropomorphic face. Southern Finland or Gotland, mid-14th century. Measures 5.8 × 4.4 × 1.4 cm. Condition: Cast bronze, the surface with green corrosion / verdigris typical of excavated artefacts. Provenance: Private collection, Belgium. Likely a horse-ornament / bridle pendant (a lunular pendant attached to horse tack); the anthropomorphic, grinning face has been read as a grotesque/apotropaic device intended to ward off malicious gaze or protect the horse and rider. The pendant is a waxing crescent (D-shape) with a bearded moustachioed face in high relief; Visa Immonen connects the motif both to a long pan-European tradition of lunular mounts (including Roman and medieval uses on horse tack) and to medieval grotesque faces used for

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apotropaic protection. Comparable pendants are known from southern Finland (Sauvo, Espoo, Ulvila) and Gotland (including a parallel in the Amunde hoard, deposition c. 1361), and the group is generally dated to the mid-14th century. Parallels: Finnish stray pendants from Sauvo, Espoo and Ulvila. Sauvo Espoo Ulvila A Gotlandic pendant (Västerhejde) and the Amunde hoard pendant (Gotland). Västerhejde Gotland? These parallels (stylistic and technical--holes for suspension, bead/loop attachments) are discussed and illustrated in Immonen (2013). References: Immonen, Visa, 2013. "Connecting Things through the Visual Arts: Medieval Crescent Moon Pendants as Horse Ornaments." *Norwegian Archaeological Review* 46(2): 175-193. DOI: 10.1080/00293652.2013.836679. Visa Immonen University of Helsinki