The Eunice M. Lebowitz Cohen
Classical Studies Artifact Research Collection:
Glass of the Roman Empire:
Fragility and Fortitude
Interns: Ben Federlin & Charlotte Padden

About

The Eunice M. Lebowitz Cohen CLARC (Classical Studies Artifact Research Collection) is comprised of 800-900 Greek and Roman artifacts. Out of this collection, we selected eight previously un-researched glass objects, four of which have been donated to the exhibit by Jennifer Stern, which had little information regarding provenance and time period. By using comparative research, we were able to identify a general date and area of the Roman Empire for each artifact.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to our Advisor, Professor Ann Olga Koloski-Ostrow, our very generous benefactor, Mrs. Eunice M. Lebowitz Cohen, and Jennifer Stern for lending us several pieces from her private collection.

Thank you to all previous donors who have given either financial support or ancient artifacts to the Eunice M. Lebowitz Cohen CLARC.

Conclusion

As two Classical Studies majors who are interested in pursuing careers in classical archaeology, we felt privileged to have the rare opportunity to work with ancient objects as undergraduates. This project solidified our interests in the field and encouraged us to pursue it professionally. Our research for this project has given us skills for possible future careers in museum studies or collection management.

While we were not able to learn everything about these objects, we were able to gain a much better understanding of most of them. These are previously un-researched artifacts that now have relevant data and can be referenced in future years by CLARC interns and students who are interested in glass and its history in the Roman world.

Roman Glass

Green Glass Jar: 2nd century CE, Provence of Palestine. Indentations on the body of jar are indicative of province and time period. Early domestic glassware that was most likely used for carrying liquids or other goods.

Green Glass Bowl with Rolled Lip: 2nd century CE, Eastern Roman Empire—probably Palestine. Green tinge probable indicator of eastern provinces. Early domestic glassware that was most likely used for carrying liquids or other goods.

Glass Jar: Approximately 150-250 CE. We found several pieces that are similar to this object, but were from different parts of the Empire. Our piece more closely resembled the objects from the Western Empire in color. It does not share the light green color that we found to be more common in the Eastern Empire. The shape of the jar is so generic that it was probably used throughout the Roman world.

Glass Vial: 4th century CE, Provence of Syria/Palestine. Most likely was used to contain perfume or a similar substance. Based on our research, almost definitely had two handles, which would account for the whole on one side.

Miniature Jugs: 4th century CE, Provence of Western Empire. While we could not find an exact example of this object, we were able to find a similar piece, which leads us to believe it is late 3rd to early 4th century CE. This piece was most likely used as an appliqué/decoration on a cup. The piece used for comparison has similar design technique and coloring. On loan from Jennifer Stern.

Horse Head (?) Appliqué: Late Roman, Provence of Western Empire. While we could not find an exact example of this object, we were able to find a similar piece, which leads us to believe it is late 3rd to early 4th century CE. This piece was most likely used as an appliqué/decoration on a cup. The piece used for comparison has similar design technique and coloring. On loan from Jennifer Stern.

Works Cited


Acknowledgements

About

The Eunice M. Lebowitz Cohen CLARC (Classical Studies Artifact Research Collection) is comprised of 800-900 Greek and Roman artifacts. Out of this collection, we selected eight previously un-researched glass objects, four of which have been donated to the exhibit by Jennifer Stern, which had little information regarding provenance and time period. By using comparative research, we were able to identify a general date and area of the Roman Empire for each artifact.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to our Advisor, Professor Ann Olga Koloski-Ostrow, our very generous benefactor, Mrs. Eunice M. Lebowitz Cohen, and Jennifer Stern for lending us several pieces from her private collection.

Thank you to all previous donors who have given either financial support or ancient artifacts to the Eunice M. Lebowitz Cohen CLARC.