

**ENNION AND HIS LEGACY:
MOLD-BLOWN GLASS FROM ANCIENT ROME
AT THE CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS THROUGH JANUARY 4**



(Previous Page) "Katakaire" beaker, CE 1–99, Eastern Roman Empire.

(Right) Grapes flask, CE 1–99, Roman Empire.

By Jill Fenichell

CORNING, N.Y. — There are multiple reasons to see the exhibition “Ennion and His Legacy: Mold-Blown Glass from Ancient Rome,” on view at the Corning Museum of Glass through January 4. The show



expands on another presentation mounted earlier this year at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. That exhibition gathered together the 40-odd objects signed or attributed to

the magical workman's hands. Corning contextualizes Ennion's art by showing it alongside that of his competitors and followers.

The best reasons to get to Corning as



(Previous Page) Detail of Ennion signature block on a two-handled cup, CE 25–75, Cuora (near Adria), Italy.

(Below) Two-handled cup signed by Ennion, CE 25–75, Cuora (near Adria), Italy.



soon as possible are selfish. Imagine how lucky you are to be able to circle these glorious First Century vases, glasses, bottles, pitchers and ewers. After touring the exhibition, imagine the world without the same. For that is the world as it might have been without decades of work by archeologists, conservators, curators and historians. It is simply unfathomable that these fragile beauties, roughly 1,900 years old, survive. Many were found as shards and were assembled after years of study. They just as easily could have been atomized.



▲ Cup with gladiators, signed by M. Licinius Diceus, CE 50–100, Western Roman Empire, gift of Arthur A. Houghton Jr.

▼ Base fragment from a square bottle, CE 175–299, Western Roman Empire.



*(Right) Pitcher with Christian symbols,
CE 425–465, Eastern Roman Empire.*



Ennion is the name of the artist and workshop owner to whom the invention of mold-blown glass is attributed. The technique was used to make objects such as flasks, jugs, cups and bowls. What is startling about this glass is its sophisticated decoration, age, the number of extant

(Left) Bottle, CE 1–299, Roman Empire.





signed works that have been found and the fact that an international Romanized civilization bought such items. There was prestige associated with owning such unusual glass objects. Ennion was a branded star of his time.

Examples of Ennion's oeuvre have been found in far-flung parts of the ancient Roman Empire, from southern Spain and western Egypt to Cyprus, northern Italy and the Ukraine. The exhibition showcases

Double-headed flask decorated with portrait of Janus, CE 100–199, Eastern Roman Empire.

fragments and entire examples. Based on the variety of forms and the number of places in which they were uncovered, Ennion achieved remarkable international success.

While archeologists have found ewers, flasks and pitchers by Ennion, his most common form by far is the cup. Examples are known with both one

and two handles. The typical decoration on these objects appears in lateral bands of flutes, pillars, columns and diamond or lattice motifs, in some instances framing a central band made up of smaller individual friezes ...

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