

Focus on...

Etruscan zeal



Helmet with pointed crest
Bronze and iron
Etruscan art, first half of the 8th century BC
H 35.5 cm

An example of the defensive arsenal of the Etruscan period, this bronze helm is a model of simplicity. Its well-rounded ogival form, its two identical bronze plaques topped by a crest, its frieze of buttons in relief alternating with lines of small beads and triangular hatchings, as well as its very fine green patina, attest to an expert and elaborate technique in the production and ornamentation of the military helmet.

On the cap, at around mid-height, we see a very localised and regular deformation due most probably to a sword blow. The blade has left a clear mark on the bronze but without managing to split it. Intended to protect the head of its wearer from blows by the enemy, this type of helmet also served to inform adversaries and allies of the status of its wearer. The presence of the plume made its owner appear taller and more powerful in order to stand up to and intimidate any opponent. This is particularly obvious in this helmet, where the plume is unusually made entirely of bronze. These aspects, and its excellent state of preservation, make this helmet an exceptional and remarkable object.

Présenté par **Phoenix Ancient Art** (Suisse), stand n° 88