

GALERIE GOLCONDA

ARCHÉOLOGIE MUSÉALE
FOSSILES – BIJOUX RARES ET ANCIENS
CABINET DE CURIOSITÉS DES GRANDES CIVILISATIONS

CERTIFICATE

GREEK BRACELET WITH RAM HEADS (6 th-4 th century BC)

MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE: open bracelet in solid silver of a tubular form decorated with two rams' heads facing each other. The silver bracelet was probably gold-plated in its original version.

The jewellery is perfectly wearable and is not fragile. The dark, even patina due to age is very nice

ORIGIN: the ornamentation of jewellery with a ram comes from Archaic, very likely Homeric Greece, and from its founding myths. The ram is directly linked with the myth of the Golden Fleece. Chrysomallos is a winged ram with a golden fleece and horns. The ram is summoned by Hermes to save the children of Nephele, a thick cloud created by Zeus, condemned to a certain death by her husband's second wife. Only one of the two children survives, Phrixos, who, once arrived in Colchide (present-day Georgia), offered the ram in sacrifice to Zeus and gave the fleece to the king of his host country, Aeetes. It would be guarded by a dragon until Jason, with Medea's help, stole it.

In the mountains of Georgia, the Svanes have a very old tradition of gold washing, using sheepskins that they soak in the riverbeds to collect the gold.

DIMENSIONS: Diam: 6.7 cm – 2.64 in

MUSEOGRAPHY: : a pair of similar bracelets is displayed at the British Museum London, under the reference of a gold-plated silver bracelet: inv. 1896,0201.142 and 1896,0201.141.

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