



Helmet for a Gladiator

Date
about 100 CE

Primary Maker
Roman

Medium
bronze

Description
Bronze, consisting of skull, brim, and comb. The skull is rounded, its brow is embossed with two pair of curving ribs filled by raised dots. A Hercules mask is applied on the brow between the bands. High on either side of the skull below the comb is a domed bosset. Remnants of mounts on the interior edges of the skull indicate that cheekpieces, and probably a face guard, were once fitted. The perimeter of the skull is fitted with holes for lining rivets. Attached to the skull by curved and riveted arms is a broad, downcurving brim that deepens at the sides towards the front. There is a small loop under the back edge of the brim. Riveted to the top of the skull is a tall, curving riveted comb with sides embossed with raised plain panels in a fan-like manner. The comb is open above for a crest (likely horsehair, perhaps colored), and ends at the basal rear in a curving "tail" with balustered terminal. A lion's head is applied to the anterior end of the comb.

Dimensions
33 x 36.8 x 57.2 cm (13 x 14 1/2 x 22 1/2 in.); 5 lb 4 oz (weight)