

Museum	National Museum of Roman Art
Inventory	CE30139
Generic Classification	Industrial arts
Object/Document	Balsamarium
Material/Substrate	Bronze
Technique	Casting
Dimensions	Balsamarium: Height = 16.80 cm; Width = 11 cm
Description	Balsamarium depicting the bust of a faun. Dark green patina. Base in the form of a flared pedestal with concentric mouldings. It is one of the few Hispanic examples to have preserved this. The lid is on the upper part of the skull, and on the sides of the head there are traces of the start of a handle.
Iconography	Faun
Dating	101=150 (First half of the 2nd century AD)
Cultural Context/Style	Roman culture
ProvenanceCalle	Travesía de Pontezuelas, Mérida(Mérida (comarca), Badajoz): Tumba de libaciones nº inv 29800 Incidental finding. Infrastructure works. Excavation, Mérida Alinari, José Ramón
Specific Site/Site	Travesía de Pontezuelas Street
Reasoned Classification	According to J.R. Mérida it would be a bronze weight in the shape of a Bust of a faun, bronze and of good art. It lacks the handle, but it retains a circular lid on the top of the head, as it is hollow, which would allow the weight to be increased with small pieces
Bibliography	<p>GARCÍA BELLIDO, Antonio. <i>Roman Sculptures of Spain and Portugal</i>. Madrid: Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, 1949. Volume I, pp. 454-455, fig. 485.</p> <p>MACÍAS LIÁÑEZ, Maximiliano. <i>Monumental and artistic Mérida. Sketch for its study DUPLICATED</i>. 1929. P. 197, fig.</p> <p>MÉLIDA ALINARI, José Ramón. <i>Excavations of Mérida. The Circus. The Columbarium. The Baths. Sculptures. Various finds. Report of the work carried out in 1926 and 1927</i>. 1929. 33, plate XX; Memoria de la Junta Superior de Excavaciones y Antigüedades.</p> <p>NOGALES BASARRATE, Trinidad. Roman bronzes in Augusta Emerita. <i>Roman Bronzes in Spain</i>. Madrid: Centro Nacional de Exposiciones, 1990, p. 301, nº 261.</p> <p>WELL. <i>Anthropomorphic bronze balsamariums from the Roman period found in Hispania</i>. 1988. Pp. 285 ff; Archivo Español de Arqueología, vol. 61.</p>



Photo: José Luis Sánchez Rodríguez



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