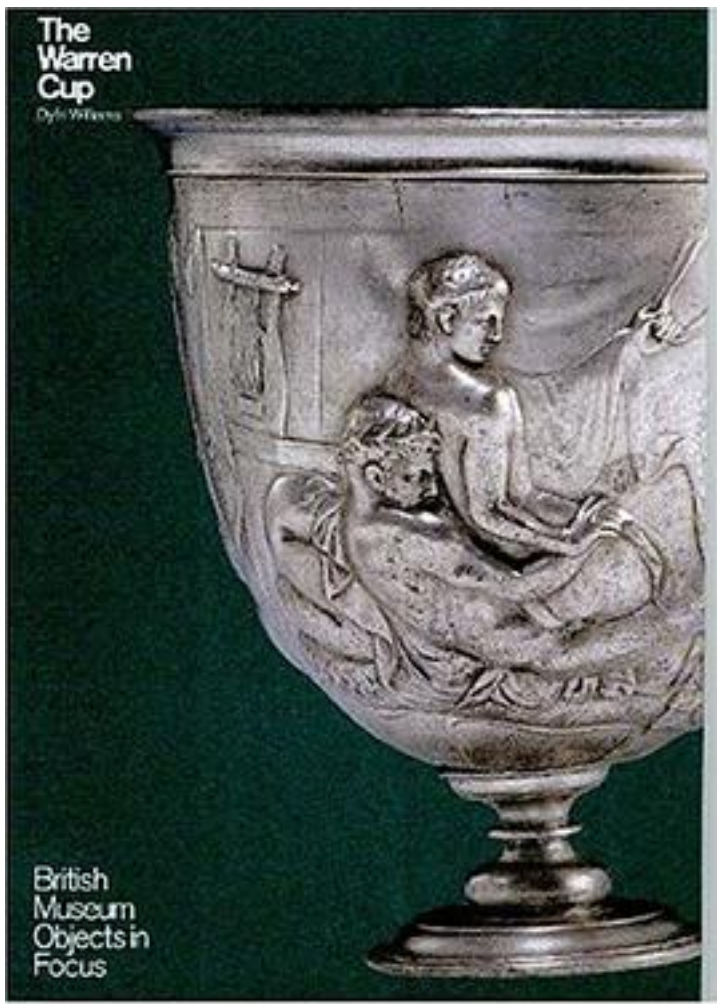


The Warren Cup (Objects in Focus)



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The British Museum's acquisition of the Warren Silver Cup in 1999 caused something of

a stir when it was announced to the press as a result of its price and its challengingly explicit homoerotic scenes. It was prominently illustrated in all the major daily newspapers and the reporting varied between the crudely predictable and the much more thoughtful. It featured in quiz programmes like 'Have I got News for You' and was even the subject of cartoons. The Warren Cup is, in fact, a remarkably important masterpiece of Roman art, created in the first century AD, which has been condemned to an undeserved obscurity for too long. Its scenes reflect the mores of the time and region in which it was created and used. As such, it is a precious means for us to reach back and understand that society, but it also challenges us to look through and beyond our own contemporary social and religious environment. This book will examine the extraordinary history, both ancient and modern, that the Warren Cup has to tell. It will also attempt to set the cup in its ancient contexts - where and when it was made; where and when it was found; and by whom it was used.

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