

PAN

AMSTERDAM

BLUE ART



This head of a Buddha belonged to a large-scale standing or seated image. That it was cast independently of the body is clear from the 'neck collar' where it would have originally been riveted or soldered onto the torso. It has all the hallmarks of Buddhahood, the auspicious signs (lakshanas) that marked out the bodhisattva Shakyamuni as one destined for full awakening. These include the skull protuberance (ushnisha), here particularly pronounced. The distended earlobes and tufts of hair represented as clock-wise spirals, both of which resulted from the renunciation, are given prominence.