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A Murano Gilt-metal Mounted 'sapphire' Glass

Mercury-plate mirror, glass *asticciole torciglione, riporti colorati 'zaffiro'*, gilt bronze and copper

Murano

Early 18th Century

31 x 37 cm (12.2 x 14.6 in.)



The frame of the mirror, with canes — or *asticciole* — of twisted glass, along with gilt-metal shells and *fusaroles*, is made out of colored glass *parcloses* which ‘recall sapphire, topaz, ruby, and emerald, represented by appliqués of colored and fused glass’.¹

This type of frame, which first appeared at the end of the 16th century and was produced until the mid-18th century by Murano glassmakers,² was intended for the ‘wealthiest and most lavish clientele’.³ A mirror of the same type from the collections of the Museo Vetrario in Murano, published by Morazzoni, is likely the ‘*Specchio in cornice dorata e riporti di vetro colorato*’ listed as No. 939 in the museum’s catalogue, under the section dedicated to *Vetri muranesi del secolo XVIII*, or 18th-century Murano glass.⁴ Consequently, the present mirror should be dated to the early years of the 18th century; while its torsated glass *asticciole*, gilt-bronze and copper *fusaroles* and *quasi rocaille* shells, and ‘sapphire’ or cobalt glass *riporti* are unquestionably Muranese.

LITERATURE

Giuseppe Marino Urbani de Gheltof, *Catalogo del Museo civico vetrario di Murano*, Venice, 1888 ; Giuseppe Morazzoni, *Le cornici veneziane*, Milano, 1954.

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