

# JOHANN LOETZ WITWE

## MERKUR – DEK I/138

  
ANTIQUES  
EMPORIUM

### Details:

*Manufacturer:* Johann Loetz Witwe

*Decor:* Merkur

*Production number:* Series II 764 – 1900

*Production year:* 1900

*Signature:* "I/138"

*Style:* Jugendstil

*Material:* Molded and free-formed glass, reduced,  
improved pontil

*Color:* Yellow-green

*Period:* 1900 – 1909

### Dimensions:

*Height:* 33cm / 12.99"

*Diameter top:* 9cm / 3.54"

*Diameter base:* 9,5cm / 3.74"

**Condition:** Perfect condition, with slightly worn gold  
decoration

### Literature:

Prestel – Böhmisch Glas 1880 – 1940 Band 2 Katalog der  
Musterschnitte – Page 115 & 434



## Description:

This imposing vase, designed shortly after the prestigious 1900 World's Fair in Paris, was crafted by Johann Loetz Witwe and executed in the rare "Merkur" décor. With an impressive height of 33 cm, this masterpiece immediately captivates attention. The body of the vase is adorned with a refined gold decoration of flowers and leaves, which seem to organically grow across the glass surface. This decoration highlights the harmony between natural motifs and artisanal perfection, characteristic of the Jugendstil style.

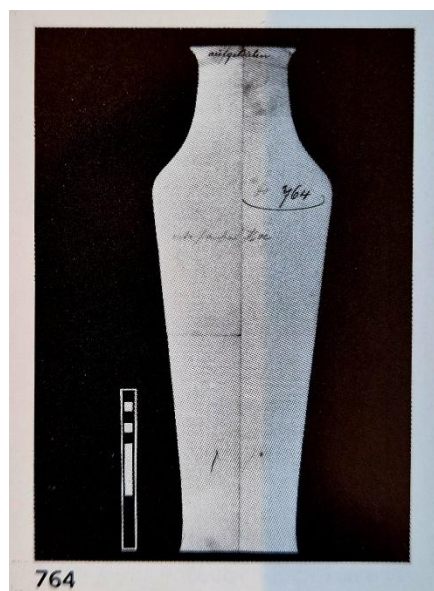
The glass is blown in a green-yellow color typical of the Merkur décor and features a stunning iridescent layer in blue and silver tones. This remarkable shimmer enhances the dynamic effect of the gold decoration and gives the object an ethereal appearance. The design of this vase is documented in the literature under Series II, no. 764.

Given that a similar design, Series II, no. 414, was specifically created for the World's Fair in Paris, it is highly likely that this successful form served as inspiration for the design of this vase. This underscores the ongoing evolution and refinement of Loetz designs during this period, where aesthetics and technique reached unprecedented heights.

### *Gold decoration DEK I/138*

On the underside, the vase bears a polished pontil marked in gold paint with I/138, referring to the applied gold décor, also known as the DEK number. Although this type of decoration is already known on other Loetz objects, this particular vase is the first documented example with this exact designation. As such, it plays a crucial role in further research on the classification and documentation of Loetz glass decorations, including DEK I/138.

This vase represents a key point in the assignment and identification of DEK I/138 and is a valuable and rare object in the world of Jugendstil glass art.



Series II 764 - 1900