Primary Maker: Märklin
Title: Zeppelin car
Date: 1931-1937
Medium: Metal, glass, paint
Dimensions: Overall: 3 × 12 1/4 × 2 1/4 in. (7.6 × 31.1 × 5.7 cm)
Credit Line: Acquired with generous support from Bloomberg Philanthropies, Richard Gilder, and an anonymous donor
Object Number: 2014.31.952

Object Name: Rolling stock
Classification: TOYS

Curatorial Remarks:
Märklin's Schienen-zeppelin (Rail Zeppelin) is modeled after an actual locomotive of the same name, which set the record as the fastest gasoline-powered locomotive at 140 miles per hour. The propeller increased forward thrust and was tilted downward to ensure the aluminum car wouldn't fly off the rails, but it prevented attaching any freight cars and threatened passenger safety in stations. Only one real Rail Zeppelin was ever produced. It was dismantled in 1939, its materials going towards Germany's war effort. Numerous toy versions of the experimental train were produced including this example in the gauge-1.

Physical Description:
Markings: On bottom: "[Märklin mark] // Made in Germany"
Related Objects: