

DAVID AARON



The 'Dattari' Baboon

1200-1100 B.C.

Steatite

This is most likely a representation of the Ancient Egyptian god Thoth, who was a lunar deity and the protector of writers, accountants and all things intellectual, and appears usually in baboon form although he was also associated with the Ibis bird.[1] His images sometimes combine these animal features with those of a human, however here he appears as the baboon fully incarnate.

The original intention of this statue is unknown, however it most probably provided apotropaic qualities to owner, offering protection in their everyday life. The image of Thoth has been found on grave markers, wall carvings, papyrus scrolls and in statue form as seen here. Examples have been found in funerary contexts along with mummified baboons suggesting that he was intended to accompany the deceased in to the afterlife.[2]

[1] L.P. Brock; *Egyptology at the Dawn of the Twenty-first Century: Proceedings of the Eighth International Congress of Egyptologists, Cairo, 2000, Volume 2*, American University in Cairo Press, 2003, p.505.

[2] S. Ikram; *Divine Creatures: Animal Mummies in Ancient Egypt*, American University in Cairo Press, 2005, p.144.

Exhibitions

Entdeckungen, Ägyptische Kunst in Süddeutschland, Galerie der Bayerischen Landesbank, Munich, 30-6 October 1985, no. 61.

Gott und Götter im Alten Ägypten: Sammlung Resandro, Ägyptisches Museum und Papyrussammlung, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, 1992; Staatliche Sammlung Ägyptischer Kunst München, 1992-1993; Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe Hamburg, 1993, no. 7.

Literature:

Jean P. Lambros Athenes & Giovanni Dattari, Le Caire Hotel Drouot, 17-19 June 1912, Lot 304, Pl. 30.

M. H. Sevadjan Collection, Hotel Drouot, 1314 April 1932. Lot 2, pl.1

The Ernest Brummer Collection, Volume II, Spink & Son and Galerie Koller, Zurich, 16-19 October 1979, No. 517.

Sylvia Schoske and Dietrich Wildung, Entdeckungen, Ägyptische Kunst in Süddeutschland, Galerie der Bayerischen Landesbank, Munich, 30-6 October 1985, no. 61, pp. 80, 82.

Sylvia Schoske and Dietrich Wildung, Gott und Götter im Alten Ägypten: Sammlung Resandro, Ägyptisches Museum und Papyrussammlung, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, 1992; Staatliche Sammlung Ägyptischer Kunst München, 1992-1993; Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe Hamburg, 1993, no. 7, p. 18.

I. Grimm-Stadelmann (ed.), Aesthetic Glimpses, Masterpieces of Ancient Egyptian Art, The Resandro Collection (Munich, 2012), no. R-64, p. 73.

David Aaron Ltd, 2023, No. 6.