

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.

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Literature:

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M. H. Sevadjian Collection, Hotel Drouot, 1932, 13.-14.4.1932. Lot 2, pl.1

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