



Statuette of Hathor or a queen

Not on display

Title/Description: Statuette of Hathor or a queen

Born: 0150 BC

Object Type: Figure

Materials: Gold

Measurements: h. 38 mm

Accession Number: 323

Historic Period: Ptolemaic Period (c. 150 BC), 2nd century BC

Production Place: Africa, Egypt

Cultural Group: Egyptian

Credit Line: Donated by Robert and Lisa Sainsbury, 1973

The goddess Hathor, or a queen wearing the head-dress of Hathor, stands with hands clenched on her thighs and left foot advanced on a shallow rectangular base. She wears a tripartite curled wig with fillet surmounted with cow-horns and disk. Behind this is a striated and perforated suspension lug, which shows that the figure was designed to be worn as an amulet. As usual in objects of such small size, the figure appears to be cast solid.

If the object represents a goddess, the absence of a sceptre is a little unusual. The statuette may be one of the Ptolemaic queens who were greatly venerated, possibly Arsinoe II.

Provenance

Purchased by Robert and Lisa Sainsbury from K. J. Hewett in 1968.

Donated to the Sainsbury Centre, University of East Anglia in 1973 as part of the original gift.

