



Head: part of a votive necklace

Not on display

Title/Description: Head: part of a votive necklace

Object Type: Figure

Materials: Faience

Measurements: h. 50 x w. 43 x d. 8 mm

Accession Number: 628

Historic Period: Third Intermediate Period (c. 750 BC)

Production Place: Africa, Egypt

Credit Line: Purchased with support from Robert and Lisa Sainsbury, 1975

This portion of a votive *menat* or necklace is in the form of a head of a goddess shown flat in profile on both sides, wearing over a tripartite wig the vulture head-dress of Mut. The body of the vulture is hatched with small strokes and the feathering of the wings is also indicated. At the rear a small lug represents the tail feathers; at the front is a *uraeus* (cobra head). The lobe of each ear has a small indentation indicating piercing. On the crown of the head is a modius coronet surmounted by a striated and perforated suspension lug. The surface of the faience is bright turquoise.

The *menat* or *menit* was a necklace sacred to Hathor, usually worn by the priestess of the deity. Its counterpoise was meant to be suspended behind the neck. The goddess represented on this example is Hathor or another deity associated or identified with her; Isis for example.

The perforation of the ears and the style of the portraiture with its very modest chin suggest a date in the Third Intermediate Period.

Provenance

Purchased by the Sainsbury Centre, University of East Anglia from Peter Sharrer in 1975 out of funds provided by Robert and Lisa Sainsbury.
