



Bust of Sarapis

Date

c. 3rd c

Medium

steatite

Description

Small stone bust of Jupiter-Sarapis, provenance unknown, although our records say "Roman period, Egypt, and "found near Alexandria". The date of the piece has been debated, some scholars seeing it as 4th century. Serapis was a composite of several Egyptian and Hellenistic deities, and his chief centre of worship in Ptolomeic times was the great Serapium in Alexandria. The identification of the sculpture as representing Sarapis (also spelled Serapis) is based on his typical iconography - influenced by late Hellenistic art, he typically wears a Greek style robe and has long locks and a bushy beard. He is also shown with a basket or tall corn measure surmounting his

head, representing his fertility attributes and association with Osiris, sometimes god of grain.

Dimensions

12 x 9 cm