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Coptic Limestone Stele

An ancient Coptic Egyptian limestone stele carved in deep relief depicting a seated barefoot boy in a long garment holding a grape bunch and dove, all within a rectangular niche.

Ca. 4th century AD.
Height:14 3/4 in. (37.5 cm).

The objects that the child holds are symbols of Early Christianity: the dove representing the Holy Spirit and the grapes for the Eucharist.

cf.: Egyptian Museum of Turin, Italy, inv. no. S.18110; Brooklyn Museum, inv. no. 71.39.2.

Formerly in a New Jersey private collection, acquired from Royal-Athena Galleries, New York, 1960.

inventory number: 9851

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