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Egyptian Amarna Relief



An ancient Egyptian Amarna Period sandstone sunk relief talatat fragment depicting a male servant figure, bare chested, his flesh painted tan, moving as part of a procession to the right, his right hand raised in an attitude of praise, as is the figure following him.

Reign of Akhenaten, Amarna Period, 18th Dynasty,
Ca. 1350 - 1334 BC.
Height: 7 1/4 in. (18.5 cm).

Talatat were stone blocks measuring 1?2 by 1?2 by 1 ancient Egyptian cubits. Their use was initiated under the reign of Akhenaten in the building of the Aten temples at Karnak and Akhetaten (modern Amarna). The standardized size and weight made construction more efficient. Talatat intended for a visible surface were decorated in sunk relief and paint to make up large scenes covering several blocks. They were later reused as fill in the pylons of Horemheb and Ramesses II.

Published: J. Eisenberg, Art of the Ancient World, vol. IX, (1997), no. 168.

Formerly in the Jean-Marie Talleux (b. 1930) collection, Grand Fort Philippe, France; Drouot-Richelieu auction, Paris, December 5-6, 1995, lot 179; with Royal-Athena Galleries, New York; subsequently in a Florida private collection.

inventory number: 6623

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