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Egyptian Faience Amulet of Bes



An ancient Egyptian blue faience amulet of Bes. The dwarf deity has a lion's mane, wears a plumed head dress, and his hands rest on his hips, with details in black glaze.

Late Period,
Ca. 700 - 30 BC.
Height: 2 in. (5.1 cm).

Bes, the bandy-legged leonine dwarf god, was an apotropaic deity, the protector of the home, children, and women in pregnancy and childbirth. In his role as protector of the home he was thought to dispel bad dreams and by increasing virility in men and fertility in women, he was seen as a symbol of fecundity. He is generally depicted nude, wearing a lion's mane, a plumed headdress, and a tail. He is also seen dancing, brandishing a sword, or frightening off evil spirits by playing music. Bes continued to be a popularly depicted protective deity well into the Graeco-Roman Period.

Formerly in the collection of Jerome Eisenberg, New York.

inventory number: 7852

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