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Egyptian Faience Menat Amulet

An ancient Egyptian blue faience amulet of a Menat or counterpoise with a lion-headed aegis wearing a solar disc with a central uraeus; below a broad collar, a rosette below ; suspension loop at back.

Third Intermediate Period.
Ca. 1069 - 664 BC.
Height: 2 1/4 in. (5.6 cm).

The menat was an elaborate necklace of multiple strings of beads. The heavy weight necessitated a counterpoise, which was worn on the back between the shoulder blades. Menat counterpoises in amuletic form are found from the New Kingdom onwards. The most ornate examples date to the Third Intermediate Period and feature protective feminine feline deities.

Formerly in a New York private collection; acquired at Christie's, London, October 5, 2000, lot 409.

inventory number: 9588

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