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Egyptian Scaraboid in Bronze Ring: Lion



An ancient Egyptian steatite scarab inscribed with an image of a lion, set in its original ancient bronze ring.

Second Intermediate Period, 15th Dynasty,
Hyksos Period, 1650-1550 BC.
Width: 1 in. (2.5 cm).

The ancient Egyptians believed the Scarabeus Beetle was able to spontaneously regenerate itself from cow dung, which these beetles can be observed rolling into small balls and burying. Consequently the scarab came to symbolize a spontaneous continuation of the life cycle. These finely carved amulets were worn in life and in necklaces around the mummy. Often the bases were inscribed with symbols or "words of power," intended to magically invigorate the wearer.

cf.: P. E. Newberry, Egyptian Scarabs, (London, 1906), pl. XXV, nos. 18-20.

Formerly in an Israeli private collection.

inventory number: 4826

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