HIXENBAUGH
ANCIENT ART
NEW YORK

235 EAST 60TH STREET
NEW YORK NY 10022
212.989.9743 / 646.326.0820
WWW.HIXENBAUGH.NET
INFO@HIXENBAUGH.NET

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Egyptian Steatite Scarab

An ancient Egyptian steatite scarab, inscribed on the base two nefer signs amid a scrolling pattern.

New Kingdom.
Ca. 1550 - 1070 BC.
Length: 20 mm.



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.

Formerly in the collection of Friar John Mothersole (1925-2021), acquired in Israel between 1986 - 1988.

inventory number: 8373

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