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Etruscan Terracotta Phallus

An ancient Etruscan terracotta votive phallus.



Etruria.
Ca. 5th - 4th century BC.
Length: 5 1/2 in. (14 cm).

From the 5th century BC onward the practice of leaving terracotta votive offerings in the sanctuaries (bothroi) of Etruria became wide spread. Representations of all parts of the body are known, e.g, genitalia, internal organs, heads, eyes, breasts, feet and hands. It is believed that these were left the intention of seeking a cure for an ailment specific to the anatomical model represented.

Formerly in a Swiss private collection, acquired in 1982; previously in the collection of James Bomford from 1968 to 1975.

inventory number: 9767

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