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Roman Bronze Priapus

An ancient Roman bronze statuette of the fertility god Priapus. The youthful god is draped in a toga with fruit on his raised garment supported by his erect phallus.

Ca. 2nd - 3rd century AD.
Height: 2 3/4 in. (7 cm).

The fertility god Priapus was worshipped in Greece from an early date. Originally his cult center was at Lampsacus in the Hellespont. The son of Dionysos, and often part of his retinue, he was the personification of procreation. By the Roman period he was taken less seriously and was often a grotesque figure placed in gardens to ensure fecundity and act as scarecrow.

Formerly in an American private collection.

inventory number: 8346

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