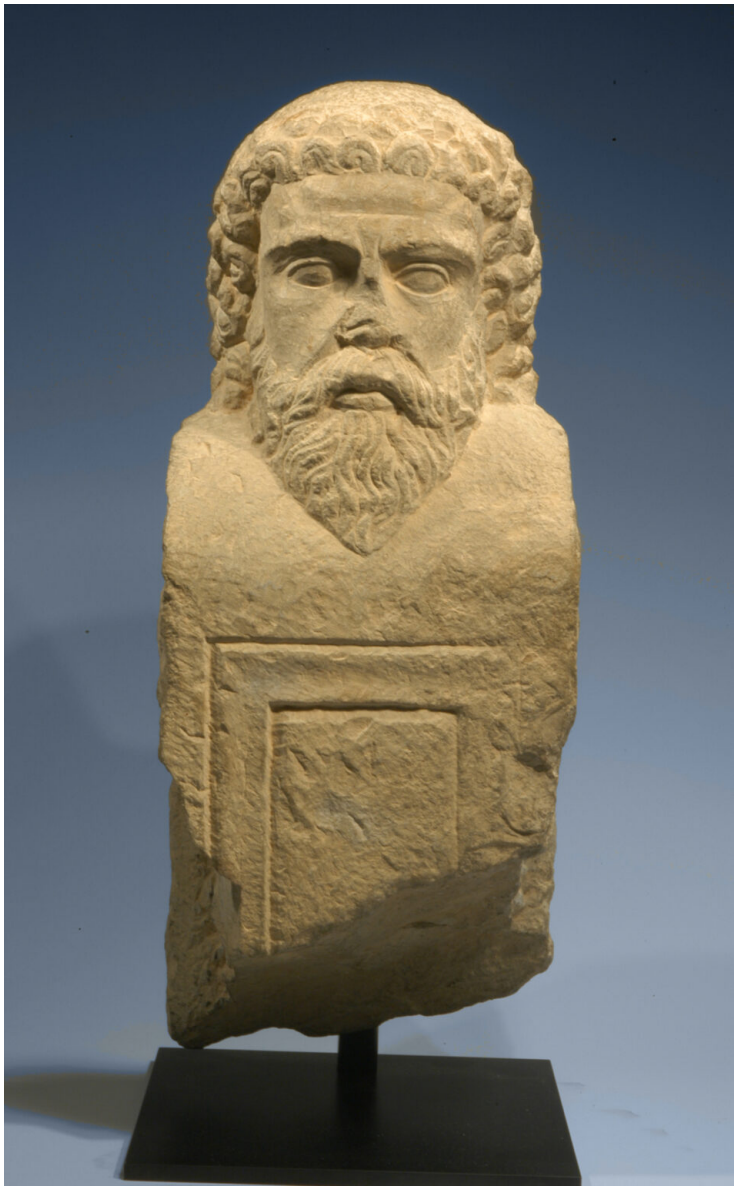
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Roman Limestone Bust of a Philosopher

An ancient Roman limestone herm bust of a bearded philosopher with furrowed brow, curled locks of hair and pointed beard; the square section shaft with incised rectangular outlines; the sides cut out to accommodate wooden extensions upon which wreaths could be hung.



Ca. 3rd - 4th century AD.
Height: 23 in. (58.5 cm).

Derived from the Greek form, herms were used in gardens of Roman villas. Often they depicted the god Hermes, but also Dionysiac motifs as well. Famous playwrights and philosophers were also favored subjects.

Published: J. Eisenberg, Art of the Ancient World, vol. XXI, (2010), no. 32.

Formerly in an English private collection; Bonham's, London, November 26, 1997, lot 406; subsequently in a German private collection.

inventory number: 9517

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