

C. Anthropomorphism: From Lion to Man...

Object key

BMAG = Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

Eton College = Eton College William Joseph Myers Collection

C1. ECM1666 (Eton College)

Faience amulet of Bes-deity

10 x 16 mm

Late New Kingdom

Provenance unknown

This well modelled amulet of a Bes-deity standing with bow legs and hands on thighs exemplifies the anthropomorphization of the deity's iconography during the Eighteenth Dynasty. The god is presented as a dwarf figure, with Nubian facial characteristics and a tall plumed headdress. The remains of a now broken animal tail and the large beard are reminiscent of the deity's original leonine form. The ears and nose have been pierced to accept some form of jewellery and a large suspension loop is located at the back of the headdress.

C2. 1969W4064 (BMAG ~ ex-Wellcome Collection)

Inlay of a dancing Bes-deity

70mm high

New Kingdom

Provenance unknown

The imagery preserved on this inlay was introduced during the New Kingdom when the Bes-image was given the role of musician. The deity is depicted holding a round instrument, possibly a tambourine or drum, in his left hand and is striding forward with his left leg giving the impression of dancing. In the god's right hand he holds a long animal tail extending from the small of his back which links this image to the original leonine form of the Bes-image.