

## E. A Period of Syncretism

### Object key

**BMAG** = Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

**Eton College** = Eton College William Joseph Myers Collection

#### **E1. 1969W2926 (BMAG ~ ex-Wellcome Collection)**

Statuette of a Bes-deity

40 x 40 mm

Late Period

Provenance unknown

The Bes-deity in this example sports bird wings closed behind his back. The god has two pairs of arms pulled round over his front; the lower pair hold a knife in each hand. The typical bow legs can be seen, while the leonine ears remain on the head along with a shaggy, mane-like beard. A suspension loop was once located on the back of the deity's head beneath a now missing headdress. The entire figure stands atop two snakes that extend from the back of the bird wings and then curl to the front around his feet. On the base of the object are depicted a number of fearsome creatures including jackals, snakes and scorpions. This object was likely intended to protect the bearer from these animals.

#### **E2. 1969W655 (BMAG ~ ex-Wellcome Collection)**

Statuette of a Bes-deity

75mm high

Late Period

Provenance unknown

Similar to 1969W2926 above this figure also has closed bird wings extending to the back. However, in this example the deity also has outstretched wings extending from the body with two arms supporting them. In his second pair of hands he holds a *was* sceptre and an *ankh*. Various animal heads protrude from his face and help to support a now missing headdress. The deity's genitalia, knee caps and feet have also been replaced with animal heads. A suspension loop is located in the middle of the back of the bird wings. The base of the figure is one again surrounded by a snake in this case one that is *ouroboros*, eating its own tail. Beneath the snake encircle a number of wild animals such as lions, hippopotami and scorpions. This statuette was also likely intended to protect the bearer from these fearsome creatures.

**E3. 1969W3078 (BMAG ~ ex-Wellcome Collection)**

Fragment of an alabaster cippus of Horus

65 mm wide

Late Period

Provenance unknown

This fragment depicts the head of a Bes-deity over that of the head of Harpocrates (Horus-the-Child). The Bes-head is indicated by a long beard and moustache, but with the familiar rounded leonine ears. To the side of Harpocrates can be seen a scorpion and reflects the use of these objects in rituals to protect against malevolent creatures or to cure people from their affects.

**E4. 1969W2133 (BMAG ~ ex-Wellcome Collection)**

Bes-vessel, Aston's Type III

142 mm high

Twenty-Sixth Dynasty

Provenance unknown

This crudely formed bag-shaped Nile-silt vessel has been decorated with applied clay to form the face of a Bes-deity. The vessel has been wheel-made and likely contained some kind of liquid libation for use in a ritual. Aston and Aston's typology situates this vessel early in the development of the Bes vessels during the Twenty-Sixth Dynasty.

**E5. 1969W2134 (BMAG ~ ex-Wellcome Collection)**

Bes-vessel, Aston's Type V

215 mm high

Twenty-Seventh Dynasty

Lower Egyptian (Memphite/Faiyum tradition)

This well modelled vessel has also been decorated with applied clay to form the face of a Bes-deity. This example has also been fitted with a circular base and a handle that extends to the rim of its tall neck with flanged rim. This vessel has also been wheel-made, but this time out of a marl clay (probably A2 or A3) reflecting its likely provenance in the Memphite region of Lower Egypt. Again this vessel likely contained some kind of liquid libation for use in a ritual. According to Aston and Aston this example should be located later than 1969W2133, probably during the Twenty-Seventh Dynasty.