

## **F. The Adoption of 'Bes' into the Classical World**

### **Object key**

**BMAG** = Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

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

#### **F1. 1969A567 (BMAG)**

Terracotta figure in the shape of a Bes-deity

105 mm high

Greco-Roman Period

Buto (Tell Fara'in)

This moulded terracotta is shaped into the figure of a Bes-deity. The image is hollow inside and an opening at the base may indicate that this object was used as a lamp within domestic ritual contexts. The item was once painted red over the skin and had some applied decoration in thick white paint over the face, torso and base. The human elements in the iconography of the Bes-image are clearly visible, but the leonine ears have been retained, as well as the large mane-like beard surrounding the face.

#### **F2. ECM1508 (Eton College)**

Faience statuette of a Bes-deity secured into a wooden block

195 x 130 mm

Roman Period

Provenance unknown

This large faience statuette of a Bes-deity combines many of the iconographic features that the deity had acquired over previous millennia. The bow-legged posture with phallus and animal tail, as well as the leonine ears and shaggy mane-like beard are all indicated. The tall plumed headdress and protruding tongue are also visible. The object is secured within an original block of wood which may evince a possible architectural setting for the item. Spurr et al. postulated that this object would have been situated within a wall niche in a domestic or ritualistic context.