

Finch & C^o



ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN SUMERIAN URUK WHITE LIMESTONE VOTIVE STATUETTE OF A RECLINING YOUNG BULL INLAID WITH LAPIS LAZULI

AN ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN SUMERIAN URUK WHITE LIMESTONE VOTIVE STATUETTE OF A RECLINING YOUNG BULL INLAID WITH LAPIS LAZULI HIS LEGS FOLDED UNDER HIS BODY SHOWING HIS GENITALIA

SOME INLAYS NOW LOST

SMOOTH SILKY PATINA

CIRCA 3000 BC

SIZE: 3CM HIGH, 2.5CM WIDE, 5.5CM DEEP - 1¼ INS HIGH, 1 INS WIDE, 5¼ INS DEEP

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LITERATURE

OFTEN FOUND IN TOMBS WHERE THEY ACCOMPANIED THEIR OWNERS, THE INLAYS OF LAPIS LAZULI WERE INTENDED TO REPLICATE THE SPOTS ON THE BULL'S HIDE. THE HOLES ARE EITHER CIRCULAR OR CRESCENT-SHAPED AND THE INLAYS DEEPLY INSERTED INTO THE LIMESTONE. CATTLE, ESPECIALLY BULLS, WERE HIGHLY VALUED AND GIVEN AS GIFTS DURING CEREMONIAL EVENTS AND RELIGIOUS RITES. THE ROYAL PALACES AND TEMPLES HAD THE BEST HERDS WITH SEVERAL TEMPLES, ESPECIALLY AT ENNA IN URUK HAVING GREAT SHRINES DEDICATED TO THE GODDESS INANNA, THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN AROUND WHICH THE BULLS CONGREGATED. ARCHAEOLOGISTS BELIEVE THAT STATUETTES SUCH AS THIS WERE SUBSTITUTES FOR SACRIFICIAL ANIMALS. THEY WERE SYMBOLIC, PERPETUAL VOTIVE OFFERINGS

WHICH CELEBRATED THE DIVINITY, PROMPTED ANSWERS TO THE WORSHIPPERS PRAYERS AND ENSURED THE
CONTINUING GOODWILL OF THE GODDESS.

PROVENANCE

EX PRIVATE COLLECTION ELIE BOUSTROUS BEIRUT, LEBANON, ACQUIRED 1920S

EX PRIVATE LONDON COLLECTION

CF: A SIMILAR EXAMPLE IN THE BERLIN STAATLICH VORDERASIATISHES MUSEUM: VA14536