



Unknown (Egyptian)
Ptah-Sokar with bird, no date
painted wood
21 3/4 in. (55.3 cm)
Anonymous gift
93.1.103

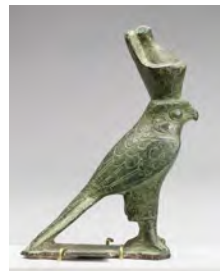
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Ptah-Sokar with bird

Ptah is one of the oldest Egyptian deities; he was known as a god of craftsmanship and creation. Worshippers of his cult at Memphis believed that he created the world through his own thought. Sokar was an ancient falcon god who became associated with the afterlife. As a composite deity, Ptah-Sokar was associated with the afterlife and depicted in mummy form. Ptah-Sokar was also combined with Osiris, the king of the underworld, as Ptah-Sokar-Osiris.

Ptah-Sokar-Osiris is often depicted in the form of a mummy with a human head wearing a crown with horns, two feathers, and a sun disc. Sometimes a falcon is seen on the base, as is the case with this painted wood statue. This statue has hieroglyphs painted directly on the front and back of the figure.

RELATED IMAGES



Horus
no date
bronze; 4 x 2 15/16 in.
(10.2 x 7.5 cm).
Gift of Horace Mayer (60.36.4)



Head of Osiris
26th Dynasty (664–525 B.C.)
bronze; 1/2 x 7/8 in. (6.3 x 2.2 cm).
Gift of Horace Mayer (59.21.22)

Sources

"Ptah-Sokar-Osiris." Global Museum Glossary
<http://www.globalegyptianmuseum.org/glossary.aspx?id=301>

"Ptah-Sokar-Osiris Figure." MFA Boston Online Catalogue for Object Accession number: 03.1625a-
http://www.mfa.org/collections/search_art.asp?review=true&id=130510

Wilkinson, Richard H. *The Complete Gods and Goddesses of Ancient Egypt*. Thames & Hudson, 2003.



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DISCUSS

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Before you read the information under the picture of this sculpture of the god Ptah-Sokar, roll your cursor over the photograph to magnify the image. Look closely at the artifact and consider these questions:

- What colors of paint can you discern?
- What tools and materials do you think the artist could have used to make this figure?
- Do you see signs of its age? Where?
- Can you decipher any of the hieroglyphs (writing)? Use this hieroglyph key to translate the hieroglyphs (<http://www.egyptartsite.com/hiero.html>).



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CREATE

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Ptah-Sokar is a composite god in Egyptian mythology. That means that characteristics of two gods are combined together in one. Try creating your own composite character by combining features from 2 or more figures from Egyptian religion or history.

For ideas:

- Browse the Illustrated Dictionary of Egyptian Mythology (<http://www.buffaloah.com/a/archsty/egypt/illus/illus.html>)
- Search WCMA's entire Egyptian artifact collection online (<http://emuseum.williams.edu:8080/emuseum/view/objects/aslist/246?t:state:flow=3e4a5aa5-3d66-4ffe-9f3d-2b08c18d3048>)