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ANCIENT EGYPTIAN GREEN GLAZED FAÏENCE AMULET OF THE CROCODILE GOD SOBEK

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3RD INTERMEDIATE PERIOD / 1069 – 747 BC

SIZE: 3CMLONG – 1¼ INS LONG

PROVENANCE: EX ENGLISH PRIVATE COLLECTION

SEE: FINCH & CO CATALOGUE NO. 4, ITEM NO. 37, FOR A BLUE FAÏENCE AMULET OF ISIS, NEBHAT AND HORUS

LITERATURE

AT MEDINET EL-FAYUM THE ANCIENT EGYPTIAN TOWN OF SHEDYET WAS A CULT CENTRE FOR THE GOD SOBEK AND WAS LATER KNOWN AS CROCODILOPOLIS DUE TO THE LARGE NUMBERS OF SACRED CROCODILES THAT WERE KEPT IN THE PRIVATE POOLS OF THE TEMPLES DEDICATED TO THE GOD. THESE WERE CARED FOR AND VENERATED BY THE PRIESTS OF THE GOD SOBEK AND ON THEIR DEATH GIVEN PROPER BURIALS. HOWEVER, LIKE MANY OTHER EGYPTIAN DEITIES FROM THE MIDDLE KINGDOM ONWARDS THE CROCODILE GOD GRADUALLY BECAME ASSIMILATED INTO THE CULT OF THE PRE-EMINENT 'STATE' GOD AMUN, AND IN THE FORM OF SOBEK-RA WAS WORSHIPPED AS ANOTHER OMNIPOTENT MANIFESTATION OF THE SUN GOD. THIS ASSOCIATION LATER BECAME SO CLOSE THAT CROCODILES BECAME IDENTIFIED WITH THE GREEK GOD HELIOS.