



Statuette

Date

600-50 BC

Primary Maker

Giovanni D'Athanasì

Medium

Bronze, wood

Description

Bronze figure of cat, seated on a modern, dark brown wooden stand. The missing legs of the figure have been replaced with carved wooden ones. There are numerous cat statues from Ancient Egypt. The domesticated cat was most commonly associated with the goddess Bastet. Bastet is the protective aspect of the cat goddess, probably due to the fact that a cat looks after its kittens; and her cult centre was at Bubastis. Bastet's rise to importance was linked to the rise of the kings of the 22nd Dynasty, who were from Bubastis. The ancient Egyptian

for cat is 'miw'. This piece is associated with Giovanni D'Athanasì, who excavated Ancient Egyptian material for Henry Salt, the collector, traveller and British consul general in Cairo from 1815. Both Salt and D'Athanasì sold their collections to museums, particularly the British Museum.

Dimensions

Object/Work: 50 x 35 mm