

# STANDING PRIEST

EGYPTIAN, MIDDLE KINGDOM, 12TH DYNASTY, CIRCA 1991 - 1786 BC

BASALT

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HEIGHT: 28 CM.

WIDTH: 11 CM.

DEPTH: 10 CM.

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*PROVENANCE:*

*FORMER PARISIEN PRIVATE  
COLLECTION OF PIERRE DEROME,  
SINCE 1963. THEN BELGIAN PRIVATE  
COLLECTION.*



This magnificent statue depicts a priest standing in a position of respect and prayer. The arms are symmetrical along the body, with the hands laying flat on the loincloth which is long and tied at the waist, while the torso is naked. The pectoral muscles are shown in cursory fashion, which may be the result of the hardness of the basalt stone

that was used. The back rest was engraved with hieroglyphs which remain partly visible. The remains of an offering prayer can be seen in *Hotep*, but the deity to which it is addressed is unknown.



This sculpture is characterized by its very long arms and imposing hands with outsized fingers. This is typical of sculptures of priests in the 12th dynasty and can also be seen on the statue of the head of the prophets Amenemhat Ankh at the Louvre Museum in Paris (ill. 1).





work. The upright position with the hands laid flat was also used to depict Pharaohs, as was the case with Amenemhat III. Indeed, the depiction of him as a priest was a form of public propaganda, placing him as an intermediary between the mortals and the gods.



Another characteristic element is the fact that the loincloth is very geometrically shaped, forming a triangle at the front. A statue on display at the Allard Pierson Museum in Amsterdam shows similar traits to ours (ill. 2). It features the same exaggerated limbs and geometric garment as the depictions of Pharaoh Amenemhat III, although his loincloth is flat and not pointed at the front (ill. 3).



During the Middle Kingdom, local temples changed in status and began to house statuettes of individuals that were previously placed in tombs. Funeral rites then began to take place in temples, which brought with it the development of a new form of art and the appearance of different models of sculpture, as can be seen in our



## Comparatives:



Ill. 1: Statue of the head of the prophets Amenemhat Ankh, Middle Kingdom, 12th dynasty, sandstone. Louvre Museum, Paris, inv. No. E11053.

Ill. 2: Statue of the priest Seneb, Middle Kingdom, 12th dynasty, shale. Allard Pierson Museum, Amsterdam, inv. No. APM 309.



Ill. 3: Statue of King Amenemhet III (1843 - 1797 BC) standing, found in the temple of Ptah in Memphis, granodiorite, H.: 191 cm. Egyptian Museum at the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, inv. No. AM1121.

