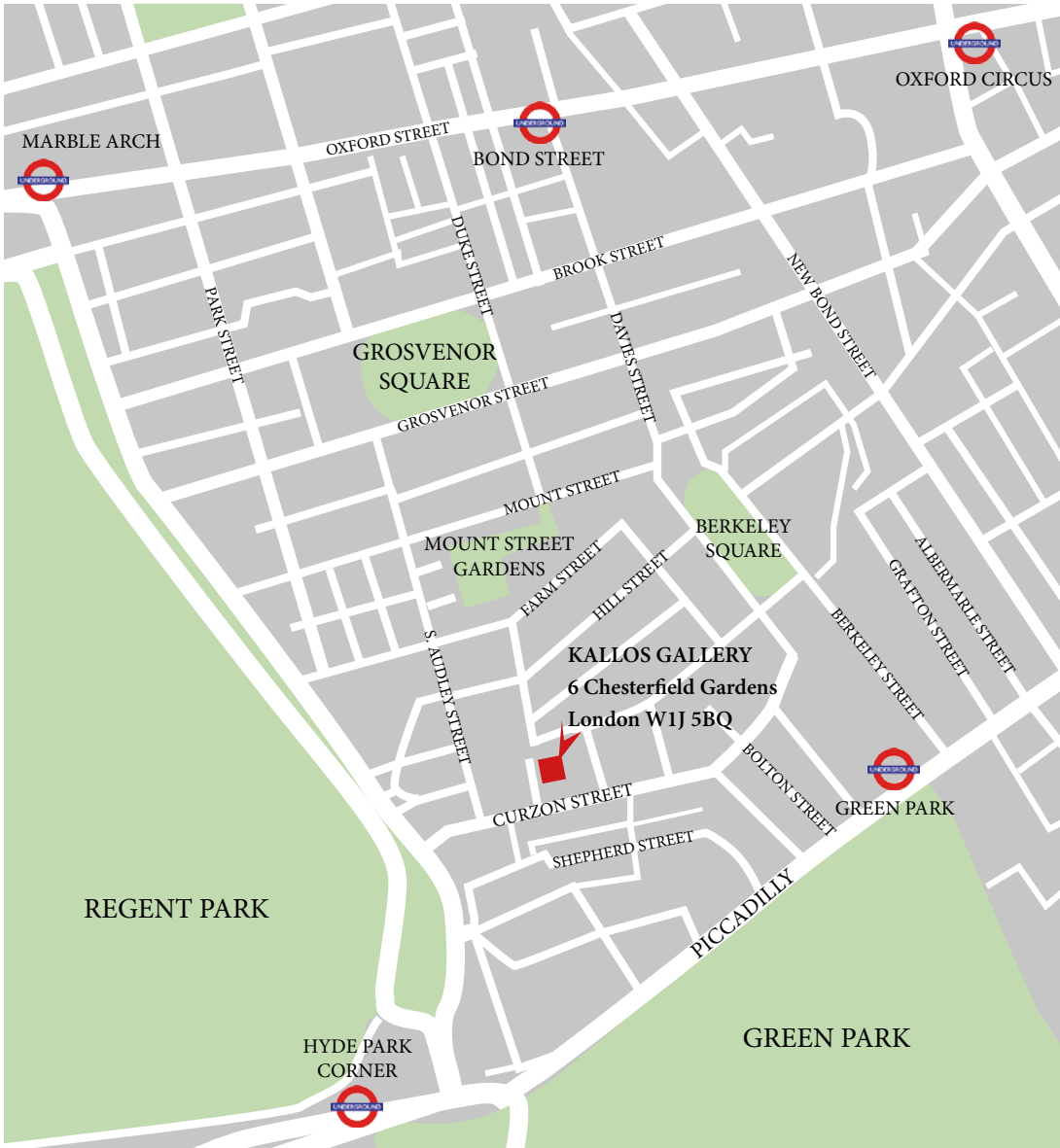




ΚΑΛΛΟΣ
KALLOS GALLERY



New address

6 Chesterfield Gardens, London W1J 5BQ

INTRODUCTION

The stone vessels featured in this catalogue owe their beauty to skilled craftsmanship and an elegant sense of refinement in design and execution.

The art of stone vessel making dates back to the very beginning of Egyptian history. Jars and containers were fashioned in hard stone long before the material was used for statuary and building.

As you will see, the materials used to create these wonderful containers are so varied, providing a beautiful spectrum of different textures and colours.

Stone vessels were created throughout antiquity. These luxury items played a prominent and practical role in everyday life. They were used in many aspects of the ancient world, including the afterlife, personal adornment, rituals and even weaponry.



1 | AN EGYPTIAN BRECCIA LUG HANDLE JAR

PREDYNASTIC TO EARLY DYNASTIC, NAQADA II –
1ST DYNASTY, CIRCA 3500–2800 BC
Height 7.2 cm

[READ MORE ↗](#)



2 | AN EGYPTIAN RED BRECCIA JAR

PREDYNASTIC TO EARLY DYNASTIC, NAGADA II –
1ST DYNASTY, CIRCA 3500–2900 BC
Height: 5.6 cm

READ MORE ↗



3 | A GROUP OF THREE EUROPEAN FLINT IMPLEMENTS

NEOLITHIC PERIOD, CIRCA 4000–2000 BC

Length: 30.7 cm, 17.2 cm, 17 cm

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4 | A NEAR EASTERN SERPENTINE MACEHEAD

CIRCA 3RD MILLENNIUM BC
Height 7.2 cm

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5 | AN EGYPTIAN GREYWACKE BOWL

EARLY DYNASTIC, CIRCA 3100–2700 BC

Height: 4.9 cm; diameter: 9.5 cm

READ MORE ↗



6 | AN EGYPTIAN GRANODIORITE LUG HANDLE JAR

PREDYNASTIC TO EARLY DYNASTIC, NAQADA II –
1ST DYNASTY, CIRCA 3500– 2800 BC
Width: 10.8 cm; height: 7 cm

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7 | AN EGYPTIAN DIORITE
THREE-PART KOHL JAR

MIDDLE KINGDOM, CIRCA 2000–1500 BC
Height: 5.1 cm

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8 | AN EGYPTIAN SERPENTINE THREE-PART KOHL JAR

MIDDLE KINGDOM, CIRCA 2000–1500 BC

Height: 7.6 cm

READ MORE ↗





9 | AN ANATOLIAN MARBLE IDOL

BEYCESULTAN TYPE, CIRCA 3200–2800 BC
Height: 7 cm

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10 | A CYCLADIC MARBLE KANDILA

GROTTA-PELOS CULTURE, EARLY CYCLADIC I, CIRCA 3000–2800 BC
Height: 19.9 cm

[READ MORE ↗](#)





11 | A CYCLADIC MARBLE BOWL

KEROS-SYROS CULTURE, EARLY CYCLADIC II, CIRCA 2800–2300 BC
Diameter: 15.3 cm

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12 | TAKHIBIAT, THE SISTRUM-PLAYER OF AMUN-RE
AN EGYPTIAN GREYWACKE FRAGMENTARY
FIGURE OF A PRIESTESS AND NOBLEWOMAN

THEBES, EARLY PTOLEMAIC PERIOD, CIRCA 332–200 BC
Height: 26 cm

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13 | A GRAECO-ROMAN MARBLE POMEGRANATE

CIRCA 1ST CENTURY AD

Height: 8.5 cm

READ MORE ↗





14 | A GRAECO-PERSIAN BANDED AGATE
INTAGLIO OF A BIRD

CIRCA 5TH CENTURY BC
Diameter: 1.6 cm

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15 | AN EGYPTIAN ALABASTER KOHL JAR

NEW KINGDOM, 18TH DYNASTY, CIRCA 1550–1307 BC
Height: 5.6 cm

READ MORE ↗



16 | AN EGYPTIAN ANHYDRITE KOHL JAR

MIDDLE KINGDOM, CIRCA 1991-1797 BC
Height: 5 cm

READ MORE ↗





17 | AN EGYPTIAN ALABASTER
THREE-PART KOHL JAR

MIDDLE KINGDOM, 12TH DYNASTY, CIRCA 1938–1756 BC
Height: 4.8 cm

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18 | A ROMAN ROSSO ANTICO MARBLE HERM HEAD OF A GOD

CIRCA 1ST – 2ND CENTURY AD

Height: 18 cm

READ MORE ↗







1 | AN EGYPTIAN BRECCIA LUG HANDLE JAR

PREDYNASTIC TO EARLY DYNASTIC,
NAQADA II – 1ST DYNASTY, CIRCA
3500–2800 BC
Height: 7.2 cm

PROVENANCE
Maurer Collection, Basel, formed in the
1960s-80s

LITERATURE
This ovoid form with similar decoration and
lug handles can be seen in a number of major
museum collections including the British
Museum, (acc. no. 1891,0430.17). For further
parallels and discussion, see M. Page-Gasser
et. al, *Agypten – Augenblicke der Ewigkeit*,
1997, p. 43, nos. 21 A.B.



2 | AN EGYPTIAN RED BRECCIA JAR

PREDYNASTIC TO EARLY DYNASTIC,
NAGADA II – 1ST DYNASTY, CIRCA
3500–2900 BC
Height: 5.6 cm

PROVENANCE
English private collection, Somerset, acquired
in the early 20th century and thence by
descent

LITERATURE
There are small jars in the same type of red
breccia, but with integral rims, in the British
Museum: acc. no. 1897,0511.30 and the Petrie
Museum: see W.M.F. Petrie, *Prehistoric Egypt*.
pl. XXXVII.19. For further discussion of such
jars and materials see B.G. Aston, *Ancient
Egyptian Stone Vessels: Materials and Forms*,
London, 1989.



3 | A GROUP OF THREE EUROPEAN FLINT IMPLEMENTS

NEOLITHIC PERIOD, CIRCA
4000–2000 BC
Length: 30.7 cm, 17.2 cm, 17 cm

PROVENANCE
Larger dagger and chisel: Sven Brock-
Foldingbro Collection, 1960s-1990s
Spearhead: Reputedly found in 1920 in
Tinglev Denmark
Nagelschmitz Zulpich Collection, 1924
Private collection, Cologne, until 1990s
Galerie und prähistorisches Museum,
Müllenbach
Private collection, Netherlands

LITERATURE
The Nordic Neolithic period (3900 - 1700
BC) was a time of great social change with
a move from hunting towards a farming
society. The period is characterised by the
use of ground or polished stone implements
and weapons. For further reading, see J.
Jensen, *The Prehistory of Denmark*, 1982; A.
MacGregor, *Antiquities from Europe and the
Near East in the Collection of Lord McAlpine
of Westgreen*, Oxford, 1987, pp. 78-80.

Such daggers of around 2000 BC were made
to imitate an imported bronze type with
a solid hilt that was produced in Central
Germany. During this late Neolithic or
'dagger' period in Scandinavia a man would
be buried in a stone cist, often accompanied
by a fine flint dagger. Such tombs were
uncovered in large numbers during the
19th and 20th centuries; many of the
daggers found were of exceptional quality
demonstrating a high level of craftsmanship
in flint working.



4 | A NEAR EASTERN SERPENTINE MACEHEAD

CIRCA 3RD MILLENNIUM BC
Height 7.2 cm

PROVENANCE
Korban Gallery, London, June 1988

LITERATURE
This mace head would originally have been
attached to a wooden shaft and used for
ceremonial purposes or as a weapon. Stone
mace heads are some of the earliest ancient
weapons, and were first used in predynastic
Egypt. The earliest examples were shaped in
the form of a disk, however in the Naqada II
period of predynastic Upper Egypt these were
replaced with the more effective and robust
piriform shape.



5 | AN EGYPTIAN GREYWACKE BOWL

EARLY DYNASTIC, CIRCA 3100–2700 BC
Height: 4.9 cm; diameter: 9.5 cm

PROVENANCE
Ebnöther Collection, Switzerland, 1970s,
thence by descent

LITERATURE
Greywacke, also known as schist is a type of sedimentary dark sandstone that was used in Egypt from Predynastic times onward. These stones are common in the northern and central Eastern Desert. One ancient quarry is known near the Wadi Hammamat. Greywacke consists of fine sand grains varying from a dark grey to greyish green colour; the sand-size grains are still visible. Its surface can be highly polished.

For further discussion see B.G. Aston, ‘Ancient Egyptian Stone Vessels’, *Studien zur Archäologie und Geschichte Altägyptens* 5, Heidelberg, pp. 28-32. For the form see A. El-Khouli, *Egyptian Stone Vessels, Predynastic Period to Dynasty III*, Mainz am Rhein, 1978, class VIII.



6 | AN EGYPTIAN GRANODIORITE LUG HANDLE JAR

PREDYNASTIC TO EARLY DYNASTIC,
NAQADA II – 1ST DYNASTY, CIRCA
3500–2800 BC
Width: 10.8 cm; height: 7 cm

PROVENANCE
Jean Sigrist Collection, Basel, acquired in the
1960s–1970s

LITERATURE
Such stone vessels were fashioned by hand using a rotary drilling technique. The small lug handles allowed for it to be suspended by cords. Vessels like this one were probably used for the storage of ointment or liquids. For similar vessels, *cf.* A. El-Khouli, *Egyptian Stone Vessels, Predynastic to Dynasty III*, vol. I, Mainz am Rhein, 1978, p. 226.



7 | AN EGYPTIAN DIORITE THREE-PART KOHL JAR

MIDDLE KINGDOM,
CIRCA 2000 –1500 BC
Height: 5.1 cm

PROVENANCE
Jean Sigrist Collection, Basel, acquired in the
1960s–1970s

LITERATURE
Vessels such as this were predominantly produced from various types of stone and were used to store kohl. A kohl pot’s specialised function required a certain shape: broad, low proportions that fit in the palm of the hand; an opening wide enough to allow the insertion of an applicator; and a tight lid to protect the contents from dust, wind, and moisture.

Both men and women in Ancient Egypt applied kohl on their eyelids as protection against eye ailments, the glare of the sun and also as in veneration of the gods.



8 | AN EGYPTIAN SERPENTINE THREE-PART KOHL JAR

MIDDLE KINGDOM,
CIRCA 2000–1500 BC
Height: 7.6 cm

PROVENANCE
Jean Sigrist Collection, Basel, acquired in the
1960s–1970s

LITERATURE
There are similar examples in Brooklyn, but this example is rare; in addition to the integral stand, it has a separate rim. Cf. J. Vandier d’Abbadie, *Catalogue des Objets de Toilette Égyptiens*, Paris, 1972, pp. 74-75, no. 245 and Flinders Petrie, *The Funeral Furniture of Egypt with Stone and Metal Vases*, London, 1977, pl. XXX, 692.



9 | AN ANATOLIAN MARBLE IDOL

BEYCESULTAN TYPE,
CIRCA 3200–2800 BC
Height 7 cm

PROVENANCE
With Galerie Ratton-Ladrière, Paris, 1980s
European private collection, acquired from
the above May 1984. Collection no. 231

LITERATURE
For a Beycesultan type abstract-schematic idol of similar proportions see J. Thimme, *Art and Culture of the Cyclades*, Chicago, 1977, pp. 392 and 564, no. 532.



10 | A CYCLADIC MARBLE
KANDILA

GROTTA-PELOS CULTURE, EARLY
CYCLADIC I, CIRCA 3000–2800 BC
Height: 19.9 cm

PROVENANCE
With Galerie Heidi Vollmoeller, Zurich, 1973
Christie's, London, *The Heidi Vollmoeller
Collection*, 29 October 2003, lot 539
American private collection, 2003-2019

PUBLICATIONS
Galerie Heidi Vollmoeller, *Antike Kunst*,
Zurich, 1977, no. 7

LITERATURE
Possibly originally from Naxos. The Early
Bronze Age culture of the Cyclades islands
in Greece is renowned for its unique white
marble vessels and idols. The marble kandila
is a fine example from the Grotta-Pelos
phase. Carved from glowing white marble,
the effort to hollow out these stone vessels
must have been considerable. Kandiles take
their name from the modern Greek word for
'lamp', because their shape resembled that of
sanctuary lamps found in Greek orthodox
churches. Cords strung through the four
pierced lugs evenly spaced around the body

would have been used for hanging, or to
attach a lid. Produced in both marble and clay
and in a wide range of sizes, this vessel type
typically held liquids, such as oil or wine.

For a kandila of similar form, see P. Getz-
Gentle, *Stone Vessels of the Cyclades in the Early
Bronze Age*, Pennsylvania, 1996, pl. 18d3.



11 | A CYCLADIC MARBLE BOWL

KEROS-SYROS CULTURE, EARLY
CYCLADIC II, CIRCA 2800–2300 BC
Diameter: 15.3 cm

PROVENANCE
Dr. Werner Ekschmitt (1926–2004)
Collection, Baden-Württemberg, formed
between 1970–1990
Cahn AG, Basel, Auktion 5, 23 September
2005, lot 225
American private collection

LITERATURE
Handmade bowls such as this were among
the most popular during this period. It is
likely that they were used in funerary rituals.
For a similar example from the Goulandris
Collection, cf. C. Doulas, *Cycladic Art*,
London, 1983, p. 102, no. 103.



12 | TAKHIBIAT, THE SISTRUM-
PLAYER OF AMUN-RE
AN EGYPTIAN GREYWACKE
FRAGMENTARY FIGURE
OF A PRIESTESS AND
NOBLEWOMAN

THEBES, EARLY PTOLEMAIC PERIOD,
CIRCA 332–200 BC
Height: 26 cm

PROVENANCE
George Michaelides (1900–1973), acquired in
Egypt in the 1930s–1940s
Curtis C. Strong (1913–2002) and Jane L.
Strong (1911–1992), Washington, D.C. area,
acquired circa 1966–67
Thence by descent to their son, Michael B.
Strong (1937–2019), Washington, D.C. and
Virginia, 1992
By descent to the current owner, Virginia,
USA, 2019

PUBLICATIONS
S. Albersmeier, *Untersuchungen zu den Frau-
enstatuen des Ptolemäischen Ägypten*, (AegTrev
10), Mainz am Rhein, 2002, no. 145, fig. 13c, p.
141, p. 379
M. Panov, *Women in the Inscriptions of the Late
Period*, Novosibirsk, 2018, p. 23.
Recorded: CLES (Corpus of Late Egyptian

Sculpture) database, Brooklyn Museum, 1960s.
B.V. Bothmer saw the statue in Cairo with
Michaelides before 1973, and clearly further-
more before the Strong's acquired it in the late
1960s. Bothmer compiled CLES between 1956
and 1982, with H. de Meulenaere. CLES is be-
ing digitised, numbered, and extended through
the Late Egyptian Artefact Database (LEAD)
project coordinated by Laurent Coulon and
Olivier Perdu.

LITERATURE
The Strong Takhibat is a superbly carved
fragment of elegant form and in a fine
quality greywacke as opposed to the more
commonplace limestone statues surviving
from Karnak in this period. Greywacke, 'was
considered to be one of the most prestigious
materials used during the course of the
Egyptian Late Period. It was the stone of choice
for royal images of the Persian kings of Egypt,
for which see the statue of Darius the Great
from Susa, and it continued to be so regarded
by the Julio-Claudian emperors of Rome who
employed it repeatedly for representations of
members of their royal family' (R.S. Bianchi).
This choice of stone, the quality of the carving,
combined with her rare set of titles, make this
a unique piece of excellent provenance, and a
wonderful rediscovery.

READ MORE ➞



13 | A GRAECO-ROMAN MARBLE POMEGRANATE

CIRCA 1ST CENTURY AD
Height: 8.5 cm

PROVENANCE

Swedish private collection, acquired in Stockholm in the 1970s

LITERATURE

The pomegranate was associated with agrarian cults, fertility and funerary rites and in particular with the Eleusinian mysteries, relating to the goddesses Persephone and Demeter. Persephone was tricked by Hades into eating a pomegranate, thus dooming her to spend one third of the year, symbolising Winter, in the Underworld.

Pausanias describes the chryselephantine statue of the goddess Hera at Argos as holding a pomegranate in one hand and a sceptre in the other. With regards to the pomegranate, he describes, ‘about the pomegranate I must say nothing, for its story is somewhat of a holy mystery’ (Description of Greece, 2.17.4-6).



14 | A GRAECO-PERSIAN BANDED AGATE INTAGLIO OF A BIRD

CIRCA 5TH CENTURY BC
Diameter: 1.6 cm

PROVENANCE

Bedfield Hall Collection, UK, acquired at Christie’s, London, 1967

LITERATURE

Depictions of water birds, either alone or with women, were a popular theme on ancient Greek gems. It has been suggested that the ‘reason for the appearance of the heron and similar birds is that they were domestic pets, cherished by the engraver’s patrons, and admired and studied by the engraver.’ J.D Beazley (ed. J. Boardman), *The Lewes House Collection of Ancient Gems*, Oxford, 2002, p.50. A very fine example can be found in the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, inventory no. 21.1206.

Graeco-Persian gems of birds were popular in the 5th century BC. For a similar example see J. Boardman, *Greek Gems and Finger Rings: Early Bronze Age to Late Classical*, London, 1970, pp. 287-9, nos. 469, 490, 514, 518-519.



15 | AN EGYPTIAN ALABASTER KOHL JAR

NEW KINGDOM, 18TH DYNASTY, CIRCA 1550–1307 BC
Height: 5.6 cm

PROVENANCE

Swiss private collection, Zurich, acquired in 1975 when the owners lived in Cairo (1975–1980)

LITERATURE

Such vessels were designed for cosmetics such a kohl. A kohl pot’s specialised function required a certain shape: broad, low proportions that fit in the palm of the hand; an opening wide enough to allow the insertion of an applicator; and a tight lid to protect the contents from dust, wind, and moisture. There is a very similar example dated to the 18th Dynasty in the Brooklyn Museum, acc. no. 14.639.



16 | AN EGYPTIAN ANHYDRITE KOHL JAR

MIDDLE KINGDOM, CIRCA 1991–1797 BC
Height: 5 cm

PROVENANCE

American private collection, Massachusetts, formed in the 1960s–1970s

LITERATURE

The Egyptians stored cosmetics (kohl) in squat containers usually made from stone. A kohl pot’s specialised function required a certain shape: broad, low proportions that fit in the palm of the hand; an opening wide enough to allow the insertion of an applicator; and a tight lid to protect the contents from dust, wind, and moisture. Although the shape remained consistent, craftsmen used different coloured materials to achieve variety. There is a similar example in anhydrite in the Brooklyn Museum, acc. no. 07.447.206



17 | AN EGYPTIAN ALABASTER THREE-PART KOHL JAR

MIDDLE KINGDOM, 12TH DYNASTY, CIRCA 1938–1756 BC
Height: 4.8 cm

PROVENANCE

Swiss private collection, Zurich, acquired in 1975 when the owners lived in Cairo (1975–1980)

LITERATURE

Such vessels were designed for cosmetics such a kohl. A kohl pot’s specialised function required a certain shape: broad, low proportions that fit in the palm of the hand; an opening wide enough to allow the insertion of an applicator; and a tight lid to protect the contents from dust, wind, and moisture.

There is a similar three-part vessel in the 12th Dynasty Treasure of Harageh: R.S. Bianchi, ‘The Treasure of Harageh’, *The Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt*, 49, 2013, pp. 19-31.



18 | A ROMAN ROSSO ANTICO
MARBLE HERM HEAD OF A
GOD

CIRCA 1ST – 2ND CENTURY AD
Height: 18 cm

PROVENANCE
UK private collection, 19th century
With Tomasso Brothers, Leeds, 2003
With Charles Ede Limited, London, 2004
UK private collection

LITERATURE
Hermes was closely associated with boundaries,
and his protective image in the form of a
bearded head set on a rectangular stone shaft
was placed at doorways and at strategic points
along the roadside. For a similar type in marble
cf. Copenhagen, Ny Carlsberg Glyptothek, inv.
no. 565. For a typology of bearded herm-heads
see L. Curtius, *Zeus und Hermes*, 1. Ergh. RM,
1931. For herm busts made of coloured stones
see H. Gregarek, *Kölner Jahrbuch*, vol. 32, 1999,
p. 105f.

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