

	Object:	God Sol or Helios
	Museum:	Museum August Kestner Trammplatz 3 30159 Hannover (0511) 168-42730 museen- kulturgeschichte@hannover- stadt.de
	Collection:	Ancient Cultures
	Inventory number:	1903.7

Description

The 25th of December is not only the day of the winter solstice, but also the birthday of the god Sol invictus, who has been known since the 2nd century AD in his usual form with a crown of rays. The Greek god Helios corresponds to him, with whom he also has many similarities in his outward appearance. However, like many other gods, he was not taken over from the Greek religion. Rather, Sol is of purely Roman origin.

Sol played a special role in various aspects of Roman religion and increasingly became a special patron god in the imperial cult during the Roman imperial period. Independently of this, with the cult of the Syrian sun god Elagabal, another 'sun god' entered Roman religion in the course of the 3rd century, or rather a mixture of the Sol invictus cult with that of Elagabal took place. Under Emperor Elagabal (218-222) this became the state religion. During this period, many works of Roman art were created that show the god with a crown of rays. It is no longer possible to say with certainty to which work of art or to which original genre this relief can be assigned. It is possible that it is a partial fragment of an ash box or the narrow side of a small sarcophagus. (AVS)

Detailed description

Flachrelief. - Kopf des unbärtigen Sol mit Strahlenkrone nach rechts, mit gelocktem, tief herunterhängendem Haar. Die Stirn über der Nase in Falten gelegt. Tiefe Bohrungen an den Locken, dem Auge und Mund. Relief ist Ausschnitt einer größeren Darstellung, denn Platte ist unterhalb der Lippe sowie neben der Nase jeweils rechtwinklig beschnitten.

Basic data

Material/Technique:

Marble

Measurements:

Height: 30 cm, width: 27 cm

Events

Created	When	190-200 CE
	Who	
	Where	
[Relation to person or institution]	When	
	Who	Helios
	Where	
[Relation to person or institution]	When	
	Who	Sol Invictus
	Where	
[Relation to person or institution]	When	
	Who	Elagabalus (203-222)
	Where	

Keywords

- Relief sculpture
- Religion
- Solar deity