

	Object:	Sol or Helios
	Museum:	Museum August Kestner Trammplatz 3 30159 Hannover (0511) 168-42730 museen- kulturgeschichte@hannover- stadt.de
	Collection:	Ancient Cultures, Highlights of the August Kestner Museum
	Inventory number:	1995.1

Description

In the Greeks' imagination, there had to be a divine being that emerges from a sea bay in the east in the morning and returns there in the evening. Depictions show Helios / Sol mostly with the crown of rays and riding on a four-horse carriage.

Helios sees and hears everything, is witness to all good and evil deeds, brings injustice to light and is called upon as an oath witness. But as the god of healing, he is also the god of sight and a god who heals blindness and punishes the guilty with blindness. He contains creative life force and has been a symbol of life since the time of the poet Homer. Helios comes from a family of light figures. His sisters are Selene (Luna) and Eos (Aurora).

This statuette will have had a halo of rays soldered behind its curls; the right hand may have been open frontally in greeting or it may once have held the globe, the left hand probably a donation bowl.

The inscription on the base clearly refers to the context of provincial Roman military culture, in which Sol played a major role from the 2nd century AD onwards. (AVS)

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Basic data

Material/Technique:	Bronze / cast; lost wax process
Measurements:	Height: 53 cm

Events

Created	When	140-190 CE
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[Relation to person or institution]	Who	
	Where	Lugdunum
	When	
[Relation to person or institution]	Who	Helios
	Where	
	When	
	Who	Sol Invictus
	Where	

Keywords

- Contrapposto
- Figurine

Literature

- Pöppelmann, Heike - Deppmeyer, Korana (Hrsg.) (2013): Roms vergessener Feldzug. Die Schlacht am Harzhorn. Darmstadt, 260-261 Abb. 3
- Wiegels, Rainer (2013): Der Sonnengott in Hannover. Zu einer bemerkenswerten Statuette des Sol. In: Varus-Kurier. Informationen für Freunde und Förderer der Varus-Gesellschaft 15, 1-5