

	Object:	Augur at the bird show (scarab fragment)
	Museum:	Museum August Kestner Trammplatz 3 30159 Hannover (0511) 168-42730 museen- kulturgeschichte@hannover- stadt.de
	Collection:	Ancient Cultures, Gemmen, Kameen und Glaspasten. Die Sammlung geschnittener Steine
	Inventory number:	2009.284

Description

"Indeed, I cannot imagine any people, however cultured and learned, however crude and barbaric, who would not advocate that the future reveals itself in signs and that it is possible for it to be recognised and foretold by certain people," said Cicero. Cicero himself was a member of the city Roman College of Augurs and a religious specialist in divination and himself interpreted the will of the gods from the flight of birds.

The Etruscans believed that the gods could make their will known in the flight or cries of birds, in lightning and other unusual phenomena. The position of the birds or signs observed in the sky indicated which god was addressing the people. For each god was assigned a particular segment of the sky. A special priest, the augur, was needed to interpret the divine signs. The bird's-eye view (auspiciu) was one of these methods of interpreting the future and signs (divinatio) that the Etruscans used.

The Roman augurs argued about whether the observation of bird flight actually allowed statements about the future or whether the birds did not merely convey signs of divine approval or disapproval of human decisions that had already been made (Cicero, De divinatione 1,105; 2,70). (AVS)

Former August Kestner Collection, Rome

Detailed description

Furche zwischen Kopfteil und Prothorax, dieser seitlich und hinten von Strichband gerahmt. Elytron mit Flügelornament. Beine in flachem Relief, die vorderen gekerbt. Ohne Basisschmuck. Poliert. Vogelschau. Vor einem Mann im Mantel, der die Hände in Gesichtshöhe erhoben hat, befinden sich zwei Zonen des Bildfeldes, das durch eine Linie

geteilt ist, Vögel. Auf der Linie eine Eule, anderer Vogel, über ihnen fliegender Vogel in entgegengesetzter Richtung. - Strichrand.

"A globolo"-Stil / Singuläre Darstellung.

Basic data

Material/Technique:

Carnelian / carved

Measurements:

Height: 0.55 cm, width: 1.09 cm

Events

Created	When	3. century BC
	Who	
	Where	Etruria
Collected	When	
	Who	August Kestner (1777-1853)
	Where	Rome
[Relation to person or institution]	When	
	Who	Cicero (-106--43)
	Where	
[Relation to person or institution]	When	
	Who	Etruschi
	Where	

Keywords

- Apparition
- God
- Sky
- scarab
- sign

Literature

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- Schlüter, Margildis - Platz-Horster, Gertrud (1975): Antike Gemmen in deutschen Sammlungen IV. Hannover, Kestner Museum, Hamburg, Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe. Wiesbaden, 29 Nr. 53