



Egypt, Old Kingdom, 6th Dynasty, c. 2200 BC.

Mirror with the name of Irti, priestess of Hathor

Slightly flattened oval disc with a short tenon and hieroglyphic inscription : " royal knowledge, priest [esse] of Hathor, IRTI [or Iret].

Crusted bronze patina and range of oxide. Lacks the handle that was papyriform, perhaps topped by a head of Hathor.

H: 21 cm

Note: The shape of the mirror is listed as dating from the XIIth Dynasty. However, the name of a prince IRTI appears in texts of this period (see Rene Dussaud, "New Egyptian texts of execration against the peoples Syrians, Syria, Volume 21, Issue2, 1940, p. 170-182 .). However, the assumption of Dynasty remains the most plausible given the translations of the limestone false door of the priestess of Hathor IRTI (University of Saskatchewan), associated with the royal cult. These join our mirror formula "Royal Knowledge".

Literature:

Parallels: Les Objets de toilette égyptiens, musée du Louvre, p. 167-180, fig. 781,785, 787. For Old Kingdom

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inscribed mirrors, see p. 174-175, n°770 et 771.

Related item: False Door from the Tomb of Irti, museum of Antiquities, University of Saskatchewan, don Dr Robert McCorkel.

Bibliography: Ronald Leprohon, The sixth dynasty false door of the priestess of Hathor Irti, New York, 1994, p. 41-46.

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