



Statue of Horus at Edfu

Date

late 19th to early 20th century (printed 1992)

Primary Maker

Artist Unknown

Medium

gelatin silver print

Description

The granite statue of the falcon god Horus of Edfu stands in the court of Edfu Temple at the entrance to the pronaos. The well-preserved Ptolemaic temple of Horus was established during the reign of Ptolemy III Euergetes I (246-222 BCE) on the site of earlier temple constructions and worked on later by Ptolemy X Alexander I (107-88 BCE) and Ptolemy XII Auletes (Neos Dionysos, 80-69/8

BCE). Edfu (in hieroglyphs Db, in Coptic ETBO, from which the modern name derives) stood on the southern border of Egypt at the beginning of recorded Egyptian history. Its original situation as a frontier settlement is reflected in the cultic name of the city, Bhd.t, meaning "place of the throne." The chief deity of the city was Horus Bhd.ty, "Horus of Edfu," commonly represented as a falcon, or as a human figure with the head of a falcon. This local Horus was believed to have come to Edfu from Nubia in the south. In later times the ancient Greeks equated Horus with their god Apollo, and called the city Apollinopolis megalé, "Great City-of-Apollo."

Dimensions

Sight: 11 7/8 x 9 1/2 in. (30.2 x 24.1 cm) Mat: 20 x 16 in. (50.8 x 40.6 cm)