



### **Egypto-Roman Mummy Portrait of a Man**

Dated to the 1st or 2nd century A.D., this mask was recently acquired by the Museum of Art and Archaeology with funds provided by H. K. Negbaur of New York. Although the exact origin of the mask is not known, it is believed to have come from the area of Luxor on the Upper Nile. The mask is of stucco, carefully modeled and painted; the eyes are of deep blue, black and white glass set into the rich red-brown skin tone of the stucco. Such masks were set over the faces of mummies which were then carefully wrapped in strips of linen. The wrapping of the head provided an

oval frame of cloth through which the portrait appeared. Although masks of this type were mass-produced and kept in stock for purchase by bereaved families, this piece is probably a true portrait, individually modeled after the actual features of the deceased. The fine workmanship and the excellent state of preservation of the mask make it an exceptionally important addition to the Museum's growing collection of Egyptian antiquities. The mask is on display in the Ancient Gallery of the Museum of Art and Archaeology located on the fourth floor of the Library.