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BEARER OF OFFERING TO THE SANCTUARY OF THE EGYPTIAN GODS IN  
THESSALONIKI  
AND HIS MACEDONIAN IDENTITY

The large relief that came to light in the sanctuary of the Egyptian gods (the Sarapeion) in Thessaloniki, which is now inventory number 868+2596 in the city's Archaeological Museum, is preserved in fragmentary condition. The surviving pieces had previously been assembled and the gaps filled with plaster, but today they are once again separate. The monument has a total height of approximately 1.60 m. and a maximum width of 53.4 cm. It depicted the figure of a young man in tunic and chlamys, with a small animal at his left hand. This slab was presumably made, perhaps with others, now lost, as a facing for a structure of some sort, possibly an altar .

The features of the sculpted head place this relief among the finest works of Macedonian sculpture and permit a dating in the early imperial period. The most interesting things about the work is that the figure is carrying an offering and that he is entering the sanctuary barefoot. Also, his dress leads us to associate him with a series of figures wearing a chlamys from Macedonia and Thessaly, a type that became very popular in Macedonia once again in the Roman era. It represents, I believe, a means of self-definition of a high social class that was proclaiming its Macedonian identity through this characteristic garment, just as it did in other cases with the use of historic Macedonian names.