

THE ART OF THE FRESCO

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Walker*



Ibis

In 79AD Mount Vesuvius near Naples erupted and covered the ancient town of Pompeii and its surrounding countryside in lava and ash. Although the disaster devastated the city at the time, killing its citizens and burying everything, the buildings and works of art were preserved for centuries under the ash. Since few paintings have survived from this era, Pompeii is one of the few precious sources for much of what we know about ancient painting and decoration.

This painting of the Sacred Ibis is taken from a wall in the Temple of Isis. The Temple of Isis is the best preserved temple of Pompeii. It dates from the pre-Roman age and was almost entirely rebuilt after the earthquake of 62 A.D. at the expense of Popidius Celsinus. The sacred water of the Nile was kept in an underground passage.

Much evidence of the worship of Isis has been found at both Pompeii and Herculaneum, demonstrating the popularity of this eastern cult during the first century AD

The Ibis was sacred to this popular cult.

£450

87cm x 54cm

Temple of Isis, Pompeii, Italy

c.60 AD