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Parts from Two Shrines for Divine Images

Richard Fazzini: You're looking at some wonderful wooden carvings, which were parts of one or more shrines. The two winged goddesses with their kneeling kings are presumably part of the same shrine. The king is offering to the deity inside the shrine, and the winged goddesses are protecting him. You will notice that these objects also have hollows, because they were once inlaid with colored glass. The ancient Egyptians really, truly liked colorful objects.

That wooden shrine that you see in the center has a goddess, she is squatting and wrapped up in a heavy cloak, and has a sun disk on top of her head. She is guarded by two cobras with wings. And they're also goddesses. So these are goddesses protecting a goddess. And this is presumably a shrine for a female deity. The patterns down below, which look like rectangles within rectangles, are in fact door patterns. They imitate the houses for the elite. And they are patterns which become commonplace in ancient Egyptian art.

The small head above, in stone, is an image of the goddess Hathor, and the falcon squatting on top of her head is the god Horus. This may be an offering that somebody made to keep Hathor happy and, perhaps, to ask a favor. Such images are called votive offerings.