

# **The Cult of Heron in Egypt**

**By**

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The cult of the Karian god Heron appeared in Egypt during the Ptolemaic period, its main cult center was at Fayoum. He connected with the Greek mercenaries who mainly came to Fayoum during the reign of Ptolemy I. His figured illustrated on the Roman temples of the villages of Fayoum as Magdola, Theadelphia and Narmouthis, he was also found on the domestic residences of Fayoum as Karanis, Soknopaiou Neso and Dionysius, in addition his figures on the Stelae and Terra-Cottas. Heron also appeared outside Fayoum on the walls of Deir el-Medina and Deir el-Hagar.

He always depicted in military dress on horseback or standing beside his horse, turning his glance towards the viewer. A tree and a serpent standing next to the god and the serpent is usually coiled around the tree.

The cult of Heron connected mainly with Egyptian gods as Horus, the two crocodile gods, Harpocrates, and the sun god Re; he is as Horus as a sun-bird. The Heron's connection with the sun's cult, give his the characteristic to act as a burial god, the deceased was depicted himself, especially upon the stelae, or terra-cottas was depicted as a rider upon a horse to be as Heron under the protection of the sun god in his afterlife. Heron also attributed with other Hellenistic gods as Herakles, Serapis and the Diskouri.

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