

5.3 THOUGHT AND BELIEF – DEATH



Type: Marble statue (so called Barberini Togatus)

Chronology: 1st century BC

Findspot: Rome

Actual location: Rome, Museo della Centrale Montemartini (inventory nr. MC2392)

Website:

http://www.centralemontemartini.org/it/percorsi/percorsi_per_sale/sala_colonne/ritrattistica_tardo_repubblicana/togato_barberini

Statue of a Roman aristocrat wearing a toga and holding two portraits. The head of the statue originally belonged to another, slightly earlier statue and was later fitted into the statue of the togatus. According to Pliny (Natural History 35, 4-11), during the Republic, Roman aristocratic families displayed images of their ancestors in the main reception room (atrium) of their houses. The images could be statues or funerary masks and could be accompanied by information related to the individual's political and military career. Mask representing the ancestors were also used during the funerals of a Roman aristocrat in Rome, when the living members of the family paraded along the streets of the city wearing masks and the attributes of the office of their ancestors. It is possible that the busts held by the man represented in the statue represent the individual ancestors, displaying his lineage and the importance of his family.

MY RESEARCH

How far can visual culture offer an understanding of cultural identity in the Roman empire?