



PL. 12*b*. Portrait of a philosopher, probably Thales of Miletus (632-546 B.C.). Marble herma (Ny Carlsberg Glyptothek, Copenhagen). Roman copy from the 2nd century A.D. of a famous original, difficult to date. The name Thales is merely a plausible hypothesis. According to K. Schefold, the palm branch on the herma is an indication for Thales, because the poet Callimachus said of him: "The victory is to Thales". It can certainly not be said that we have here an authentic portrait of the philosopher. It is an "image" of the sage of which the style indicates that it is not earlier than the 4th century B.C.