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- 1 The bronzes accidentally found at Shami are very well-known to archaeologists. Among other findings, the remains of a portrait of a Hellenistic ruler now in the National Museum of Iran stands out as one of the rare examples of Hellenistic sculpture in Iran. It shows what remains of the face of a beardless sovereign with short hairs larger than life-size. It can be likely dated to the 3rd-2nd cent. BCE, and its importance rests on the fact that it was dedicated in what is seen as one of the most important sanctuaries of Parthian Iran, and that there is very little evidence of Hellenistic bronzes in Seleucid Asia. This article presents the preliminary results of a project aiming at reconstructing the original facial features of this ruler, likely of the Seleucid dynasty. Although this aim has not been achieved, due to the portrait's intense deformation, the investigations at the National Museum of Iran have already yielded extraordinary results, even the ruler represented still remain unidentified.

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