

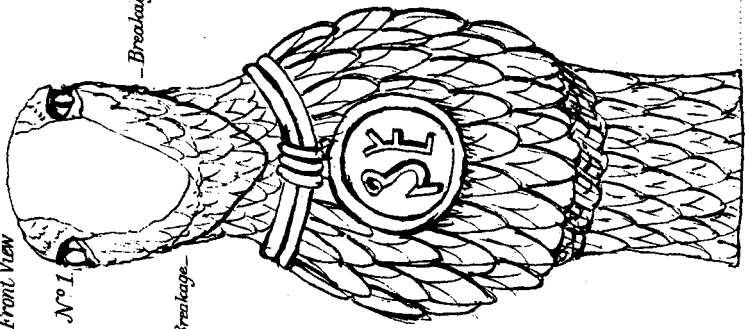
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Front View

N^o 1.

Breakage

Breakage



2 feet 4 inches high

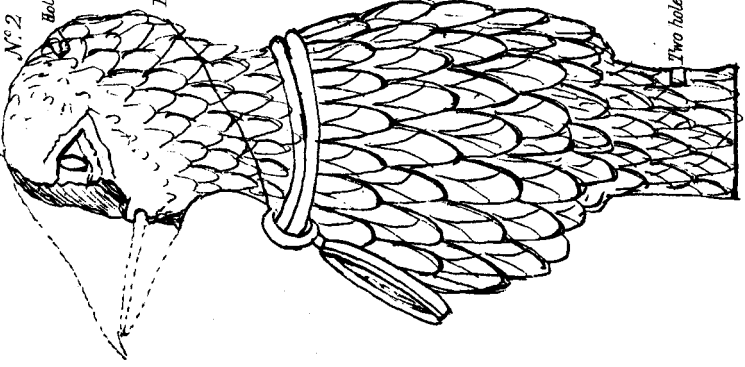
Side View

N^o 2

Hole for an Iron Fastening

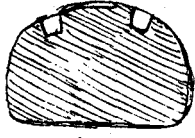
Breakage

Two holes for Iron Fastenings




N^o 3

Plan of bottom



JERUSALEM, 13th June, 1882.

In the winter from 1880 to 1881, many of the outer stones of the eastern wall of the Haram Esh Sherif, near its south-east corner, fell down: some smaller pieces followed last winter; and in order to avoid the entire falling (except the large ancient parts) it was now absolutely necessary to repair. So the upper part—not only what stood higher up above the ground inside, but a good deal downwards—on both sides (east and south) at the south-east corner, was taken down, so that the place called the “cradle of Christ” became towards east quite open, and partly also in south. By this work last week a curious stone figure was found, and brought into the Serai (into the office room of the Pacha), where I had an opportunity of seeing it, and of making a sketch and taking the necessary measurements from it. It is of green marble, now broken in two pieces: the head is loose, but when I put it on the body it fitted exactly (the breakages I have shown in the two sketches); the nose on the head is also broken off, and is missing, as it was not found at the spot. The two eyes are preserved very well, but are not human ones—they are put rather on the side of the head than in front, and are standing unusually far one from the other, so the face cannot have been a human one; there is also not any trace of a beard. So I suppose the nose was a bill or beak (of a bird) probably, as I have pointed it out by dotted lines—the (inner) ending of it; and so the situation of the mouth is on one side preserved as I have shown in Fig. 2. But might it not have been the mouth of a fish? only then it would have been situated curiously. Over the whole body are feathers—as I think, or as my companion thought, fish scales—

each feather marked with two curves thus, . On the neck

of the figure is a double band, on which hangs a medallion by a three-fold ring. On the medallion are two letters—as I think the figures are—in relief. On the occiput is a square hole, in which once metal was fastened, and also two such holes on its foot, of which I show the form (in Plan No. 3). So it is clear nothing is missing on the foot, but all complete still, although in some way curious. I heard that the Pacha had ordered some sketches to be made from it, which he had sent to Constantinople, and is now waiting for direction what he is to do with the figure. It seemed to me that a cast should be taken if possible, if it remains long enough here, and permission can be got.

C. SCHICK.