

PLATE 2



Orpheus Taming Wild Animals. The oldest dated mosaic in Old Syriac depicting Orpheus, a legendary musician poet known from ancient Greek mythology. The mosaic is dated A.D. 194 and originates from Edessa. It mentions the name of the mosaic-maker, Bar Sāgeḏ, and his profession, *rāṣūpā*. The writing in the lower left corner (shown in more detail below) reads:

In the month of Nisān in the year five hundred and five, I, Pāpā son of Pāpā, made for myself this chamber of repose, for myself and for my children and for my heirs. Blessed be whoever sees and gives blessing.

(Dallas Museum of Art, 1999.305; see §17ff.)



Photograph by John F. Healey.