Servants for Eternity: Egyptian Ushabtis
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## Table of Contents

1. Overview (page 3)
2. New Kingdom Limestone Ushabti (page 4)
3. Crown Prince Khaemwaset (pages 5 - 7)
4. Queen Isetnofret (page 8)
5. Crown Prince Ramesses (page 8)
6. Princess Meryetptah (page 9)
7. Hori (page 10)
8. Prince Maatptah (page 11)
9. Huy (page 11)
10. Neferrenpet (pages 12 - 13)
11. Overseer (*Reis*) Ushabtis (page 14)
12. New Kingdom Ladies of the House (page 15)
13. High Priestess, Divine Adoratrice, Henuttawy (pages 16 - 17)
14. Third Intermediate Period Ushabtis (pages 18 - 19)
15. Late Period Ushabtis (pages 20 - 21)
16. Select Reading (page 22)
Overview

Ushabtis (shabtis or shawabtis), ancient Egyptian mummiform statuettes, have long fascinated Egyptologists and collectors of ancient art. The ushabti’s appeal manifests itself on multiple levels – artistic, historical, and epigraphic. Since these mummiform tomb figures were produced in great numbers in antiquity and vary widely in terms of quality, medium, and size, they are available to collectors today of different tastes and at all price levels.

The shabti was first introduced in the Middle Kingdom during the 12th Dynasty but its function changed as Egyptian society transformed. Middle Kingdom shabtis were meant to act as substitutes for the deceased in case their mummy was destroyed. During the Second Intermediate Period burial practices changed, inscribed simple wooden figures called shawabtis (after the Egyptian word for wood, shawab) began to be placed in tombs. During the New Kingdom, shabtis assumed a new role as servant figures for the deceased. Shabtis were provided with a variety of agricultural equipment and functioned as assistants for their owners in the afterlife. By the Third Intermediate Period, the number of shabtis placed in the tomb was set at 401 (365 worker shabtis and 36 overseer shabtis). During the Late Period the tomb figures became known as ushabtis (‘answerers’), these figures represented servants who would magically answer when called upon to perform agricultural duties for the Pharaoh (in the form of Osiris) in the Afterlife. Ushabtis were made in the workshops of temple priests. Their main function was to ensure the individuals comfort and freedom from daily labor in the next life.*

Today the ushabti appeals to a variety of different tastes. The unmistakably Egyptian appearance of the ushabti is visually captivating. These miniature statues vary significantly in size, color and material. Collectors partial to sculpture will find well carved examples in a variety of different media. Egyptians used several different types of stone to carve ushabtis including limestone, sandstone, alabaster, serpentine, schist and granite. The Egyptians also cast ushabtis in bronze and molded ushabtis from terracotta. However, the most prevalent medium used was faience. Faience ushabtis were produced in a variety of colors including brilliant shades of blue, turquoise and white. The finest faience ushabtis were painted in a broad palette of colors. In some cases, inscriptions were molded into the faience in other cases they were painted on the surface.

In addition to their visual aesthetics, ushabti texts are compelling to anyone with an interest in epigraphy. Ushabtis were inscribed with a spell from Chapter 6 of the Egyptian Book of the Dead. Some ushabtis contain the entire spell from the Book of the Dead while others are inscribed with shortened versions of the text. In some cases the ancient artist took liberties, omitting or rearranging Hieroglyphs because of space constraints. As the ushabti inscription was formulaic, even the modern layman may learn to spot often repeated phrases and decipher their texts. Ushabti texts provide an interesting introduction into the ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphic system of writing.

Ushabtis also appeal to those with an interest in history. Ancient art offers the collector a tangible link to our collective past. Many ancient artifacts provide a window into the lives our distant ancestors. However, ushabtis are a direct link to specific ancient Egyptian individuals. Some ushabtis are inscribed with the name of a known ancient person. Among them are pharaohs, queens, princes, and princesses. There are also countless ushabtis of ordinary Egyptians including artists, craftsmen, officials, and their families. The ushabtis included in this catalog represent this wide range of fascinating ancient Egyptian objects that are available to the collector.

* For simplification, we will refer to all mummiform figures as Ushabtis.
New Kingdom Polychrome Limestone Ushabti

A large Egyptian limestone ushabti. The mummiform figure’s arms are painted in red and are crossed. The shabti holds a hoe and pick with a seed bag slung over the shoulder. There is a column of text at the front with four rows of horizontal text around the body in cursive Hieroglyphs.

**Period:** New Kingdom  
**Dynasty:** XVIII  
**Date:** ca. 1550 - 1293 BC  
**Medium:** Limestone  
**Height:** 7 in. (17.5 cm)

**Provenance:** Formerly in a United Kingdom private collection, formed by Sgt. William Elliott (d.1915) of 1st Battalion Scots Guards, and J. G. Judd, (b.1923), collecting in the 1940s.  
**HAA#:** 5491
Crown Prince Khaemwaset

Grave goods of the Egyptian prince Khaemwaset, the most famous son of Pharaoh Ramesses II, were first discovered by the French archaeologist August Mariette while excavating the Serapeum at Saqqara between 1850 and 1853. The Serapeum of Saqqara was the burial complex of the sacred Apis bulls which were the physical manifestations of the god Ptah. The Serapeum is located near the step Pyramid of Djoser at Saqqara, not far from Memphis in Lower Egypt. Mariette cleared sand from the entry way to the Serapeum, but the entrance was ultimately blocked by giant boulders and debris. He was forced to use dynamite to gain entry to the subterranean catacombs that held the massive sarcophagi of the sacred Apis bulls. Within these passageways, Mariette unearthed amulets and shabtis naming Khaemwaset. The same Khaemwaset is known from ancient Egyptian texts as the builder of the Serapeum. He was a very important Ramesside prince, the most prominent son of the powerful and long lived Pharaoh Ramesses II. During his lifetime, Khaemwaset was revered as a high priest and magician. He has been referred to as the first Egyptologist for his documented interest in Egypt’s Old Kingdom monuments which were by his time already over 1000 years old. He restored many of these early monuments in and around Giza. Many, like the 5th Dynasty Pyramid of Unas at Saqqara, bear inscriptions detailing the work he had done there. Khaemwaset received military training in his youth and was present at the Battle of Kadesh as a subordinate officer under the command of his father Ramesses II. He went on to hold several important priestly titles including the Sem Priest of Ptah at Memphis. It was in this role that he oversaw the sacred Apis bulls and their interment within the Serapeum.

The tomb of Khaemwaset has never been identified. Shabtis of Khaemwaset were unearthed by Mariette in the Serapeum and are now in the Louvre. Other examples have found their way into the European collections including the Basel Antiken Museum, the Royal Museums of Brussels, and the National Antiquities Museum of Lieden. These shabtis and those of other royal personages of the Ramesside Period have come to light periodically since the middle of the nineteenth century. They include the other High Priests of Ptah at Memphis and their families and various dignitaries associated with them. Also among this group are the family of Ramesses II, and his queen Isetnofret, namely Khaemwaset and his brother, General Ramesses and a number of their children.

These shabtis provide a rare and tantalizing link to fascinating and historically documented individuals from New Kingdom Egypt. To own a shabti of Khaemwaset, his relatives or contemporaries, is a rare opportunity to possess a valuable personalized object that was produced at the twilight of the New Kingdom, the zenith of ancient Egyptian culture. Each of these statuettes was carefully molded and inscribed by the finest craftsmen of the royal workshops of the court of the Pharaoh Ramesses II some 3000 years ago. Most examples are now in museums, only a handful remain in private hands.
Crown Prince Khaemwaset

An Egyptian blue faience ushabti of Khaemwaset. The mummiform figure wears a broad collar, a short wig with a side lock of hair, typical for a Sem Priest, his crossed hands hold hoes and a seed bag hangs from the back. A vertical inscription is painted on the front reading, “The illuminated one, the Osiris, Sem Priest of Ptah, Son of the King (Prince), Khaemwaset.”

Period: New Kingdom
Dynasty: XIX
Date: ca. 1250 - 1230 BC
Medium: Faience
Height: 6 in. (15.2 cm)

Provenance: Formerly in the collection of Leopoldo Benguerel y Godo, Barcelona, acquired in London in the 1960’s.
HAA#: 5890
Crown Prince Khaemwaset

An Egyptian blue faience ushabti of Khaemwaset. The bearded mummiform figure wears a broad collar, a short wig with a side lock of hair, typical for a Sem Priest, his crossed hands hold hoes. A vertical inscription is painted on the front reading, “Osiris, Sem Priest, Son of the King (Prince), Khaemwaset, true of voice.”

**Period:** New Kingdom  
**Dynasty:** XIX  
**Date:** ca. 1250 - 1230 BC  
**Medium:** Faience  
**Height:** 6 in. (15.2 cm.)

**Provenance:** Formerly in the collection of Leopoldo Benguerel y Godo, Barcelona, acquired in London in the 1960’s.  
**HAA#:** 5882

An Egyptian white multicolored faience ushabti of Khaemwaset. The mummiform figure wears a collar, a short wig with a side lock of hair, typical for a Sem Priest, his crossed hands hold agricultural equipment. A vertical inscription is painted on the front reading, “Son of the King (Prince), Sem Priest of Ptah, Khaemwaset, justified.”

**Period:** New Kingdom  
**Dynasty:** XIX  
**Date:** ca. 1250 - 1230 BC  
**Medium:** Faience  
**Height:** 4 1/4 in. (12 cm.)

**Provenance:** Formerly in the collection of Leopoldo Benguerel y Godo, Barcelona, acquired in London in the 1960’s.  
**HAA#:** 5887
Queen Isetnofret & Crown Prince Ramesses

Isetnofret (also Isetneferet) was the second wife of Ramesses II, and mother of Pharaoh Merenptah, Crown Prince Khaemwaset and Crown Prince Ramesses. Both Khaemwaset and Ramesses died before being able to ascend to the throne. Crown Prince Ramesses was the second son of Ramesses II (the first son of Ramesses II and Isetnofret). Crown Prince Ramesses also held the title Royal Scribe and first General of His Majesty. He was Crown Prince from Year 25 until his death in Year 50 of Ramesses II reign. Crown Prince Ramesses is buried in the KV5 in the Valley of the Kings.

An Egyptian blue faience ushabti of Isetnofret. The mummiform figure wears a broad collar, a wig with a side lock of hair, the crossed hands hold hoes, and a seed bag hangs from the back. A vertical inscription is painted on the front, reading, “The illuminated one, the Osiris, Great Royal wife, Isetnofret, ....”

An Egyptian white faience ushabti of Crown Prince Ramesses (General Ramesses). The mummiform figure wears a broad collar, a wig, the crossed hands hold hoes. A vertical inscription is painted on the front, reading, “The illuminated one, the Osiris, son of the King, chief of the army, Ramesses, justified.”

Provenance: Formerly in the collection of Leopoldo Benguerel y Godo, Barcelona, acquired in London in the 1960’s. HAA#: 5927

Provenance: Formerly in the collection of Leopoldo Benguerel y Godo, Barcelona, acquired in London in the 1960’s. HAA#: 5929
Princess Meryetptah

Meryetptah (“Beloved of Ptah”) was the daughter of the great Pharaoh Ramesses II (Ramesses is thought to have fathered over 100 children including 40 - 60 daughters). Meryetptah is known to us from the procession of daughters at Luxor where she is 16th in order. She was the sister of Pharaoh Merenptah and Prince Khaemwaset.

An Egyptian white faience ushabti of Meryetptah. The mummiform figure wears a striated tripartite wig and broad collar. Its crossed hands hold two hoes and a seed bag hangs from the back. An inscription with four horizontal bands is painted on the front reading, “The illuminated one, the Osiris, the Chantress of Amun, Meryetptah. He says ‘O, ushabti, if summoned or counted to do any work in the necropolis, ‘I will do it, look, here I am, every time.”

Period: New Kingdom
Dynasty: XIX - XX
Date: ca. 1293 - 1133 BC
Medium: Faience
Height: 3 3/8 in. (8.5 cm).
HAA#: 5388

An Egyptian blue faience ushabti of Meryetptah. The mummiform figure wears a broad collar, a wig, the crossed hands hold hoes, and a seed bag hangs from the back. A vertical inscription is painted on the front reading “The illuminated one, Daughter of the King (Princess), Meryetptah, true of voice, justified.”

Period: New Kingdom
Dynasty: XIX
Date: ca. 1279 - 1193 BC
Medium: Faience
Height: 5 1/8 in. (13 cm)
Provenance: Formerly in the collection of Leopoldo Benguerel y Godo, Barcelona, acquired in London in the 1960’s.
HAA#: 5880
Hori

Hori (Hori I) was the second son of Khaemwaset and served as High Priest of Ptah at the end the reign of Ramesses II (his grandfather). His name is depicted on a pillar from his tomb at Saqqara (Cairo Museum). His sarcophagus is located in Berlin. Hori II was the son of Hori, grandson of Khaemwaset and great-grandson of Ramesses II. Hori served as Vizier from the reign of Sety II to the 16th year of Ramesses. A stela from Memphis indicates he was Vizier of the North and the South. An ushabti of Hori is on display in Paris at the Lourve.

An Egyptian blue faience ushabti of Hori, the High Priest of Ptah. The bearded mummiform figure wears a necklace, a wig with a side lock of hair, his crossed hands hold hoes. A vertical inscription is painted on the front reading, “The illuminated one, the Osiris, Sem Priest, Director of Craftsmen, Hori”

**Period:** New Kingdom  
**Dynasty:** XIX  
**Date:** ca. 1279 - 1193 BC  
**Medium:** Faience  
**Height:** 5 1/2 in. (14 cm)  
**Provenance:** Formerly in the collection of Leopoldo Benguerel y Godo, Barcelona, acquired in London in the 1960’s.  
**HAA#:** 5876

**Period:** New Kingdom  
**Dynasty:** XIX  
**Date:** ca. 1293- 1193 BC  
**Medium:** Faience  
**Height:** 5 1/2 in. (14 cm)  
**Provenance:** Formerly in the collection of Leopoldo Benguerel y Godo, Barcelona, acquired in London in the 1960’s.  
**HAA#:** 5892
**Prince Maatptah**

Ramesses-Maatptah was the son of Ramesses II. Ramesses-Maatptah is only known from a letter in which a palace servant Meryotef rebukes him for failing to respond to a communication.

An Egyptian white faience ushabti of Maatptah. The mumiform figure wears a broad collar, a wig with a side lock of hair typical for a Sem Priest, his crossed hands hold hoes, and a seed bag hangs from his back. A vertical inscription is painted on the front reading “The illuminated one, Osiris, Sem Priest of Ptah, Son of the King (Prince), Maatptah.

**Huy**

Huy served as High Priest of Ptah under Ramesses II. Two ushabtis of Huy are located in Paris at the Louvre. He is known from an inscription related to the Apis burial at the Serapeum.

An Egyptian blue faience ushabti of Huy, the High Priest of Ptah. The bearded mumiform figure wears a necklace, a wig with a side lock of hair, his crossed hands hold hoes, and a seed bag hangs from his back. A vertical inscription is painted on the front reading, “The illuminated one, the Osiris, Director of Craftsmen, Sem Priest, Huy”

**Period:** New Kingdom  
**Dynasty:** XX  
**Date:** ca. 1189 - 1155 BC  
**Medium:** Faience  
**Height:** 6 1/2 in. (16.8 cm)  
**Provenance:** Formerly in the collection of Leopoldo Benguerel y Godo, Barcelona, acquired in London in the 1960's.  
**HAA#:** 5891

**Period:** New Kingdom  
**Dynasty:** XIX  
**Date:** ca. 1279- 1213 BC  
**Medium:** Faience  
**Height:** 6 in. (15.2 cm)  
**Provenance:** Formerly in the collection of Leopoldo Benguerel y Godo, Barcelona, acquired in London in the 1960's.  
**HAA#:** 5883
Neferrenpet, Vizier of Egypt

Neferrenpet was Vizier of Egypt and High Priest of Ptah under Ramesses II. The Vizier was the highest ranking official to serve the Pharaoh and his responsibilities included supervising the administration of ancient Egypt. During the New Kingdom, the role of Vizier was split between the North and South. Neferrenpet served as Vizier of the South during the latter part of Ramesses II reign. Neferrenpet also served as the most important religious administrator, the High Priest of Ptah (Sem Priest of Ptah, “great chief of all artisans”). The High Priest was an advisor to the Pharaoh and oversaw the religious rites and ceremonies at the temple. A Sem Priest was responsible for performing funeral rites. Ceremonial accoutrement included dressing in a panther skin and wearing a short wig with a side lock.

Neferrenpet is depicted on a stela at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York). The votive stela shows Neferrenpet wearing a long, high waisted kilt performing a ceremonial offering to Ptah.

A second instance of the name Neferrenpet can be found in papyrus rolls from a tomb excavated at the archaeological site at Deir el-Medinah known as “The Book of the Dead of the sculptor Neferrenpet.” This text was written in cursive Hieroglyphs on papyrus rolls and is currently on display at the Royal Museums of Art and History in Brussels.

Vizier Neferrenpet

An Egyptian white faience ushabti of Neferrenpet, Vizier of Egypt under Ramesses II. The bearded mumiform figure wears a striated wig with a side lock of hair, his crossed hands hold hoes, and a seed bag hangs from his back. A vertical inscription is painted on the front reading, “The illuminated one, Osiris, Sem Priest of Ptah, Neferrenpet, true of voice”

Period: New Kingdom
Dynasty: XIX
Date: Ca. 1279 - 1193 BC.
Medium: Faience
Height: 5 3/4 in. (14.5 cm).

Provenance: Formerly in the collection of Leopoldo Benguerel y Godo, Barcelona, acquired in London in the 1960’s.
HAA#: 5879
Vizier, Neferrenpet

An Egyptian white faience ushabti of Neferrenpet, Vizier of Egypt under Ramesses II. The mumiform figure wears a broad collar and wig with a side lock of hair. His crossed hands hold hoes, and a seed bag hangs from his back. A vertical inscription is painted on the front reading, “The illuminated one, the Osiris, Sem Priest of Ptah, Neferrenpet, justified.”

**Period:** New Kingdom  
**Dynasty:** XIX  
**Date:** Ca. 1279 - 1193 BC  
**Height:** 5 1/2 in. (14 cm)  
**Provenance:** Formerly in the collection of Leopoldo Benguerel y Godo, Barcelona, acquired in London in the 1960’s.  
**HAA#:** 5881

Neferrenpet the Sculptor

An Egyptian white faience ushabti of the sculptor Neferrenpet. The mumiform figure wears a broad collar and striated tripartite wig. His crossed hands hold hoes. A vertical inscription is painted on the front reading, “Osiris, the sculptor of (stone) vases, Neferrenpet, the venerable, lie in peace.”

**Period:** New Kingdom  
**Dynasty:** XIX  
**Date:** Ca. 1293- 1250 BC.  
**Height:** 5 1/4 in. (13.2 cm)  
**Provenance:** Formerly in the Gustave Moustaki collection, Alexandria, Egypt. Moustaki began forming his collection in the late 19th Century. In 1949 the collection was legally exported from Egypt.

**HAA#:** 2511
Overseer Ushabtis

The overseer (Reis) Shabti was introduced during the latter part of the New Kingdom. With the introduction of the overseer, ushabtis were divided into workers (servants) and deputies. Each overseer supervised 10 workers, fixing the total number of ushabtis in the tomb to 401 (365 workers, 36 overseers). Originally the overseer was differentiated by the attire of daily life. In the Third Intermediate Period, the overseer carried a whip further enforcing the relationship between servant and master.

An Egyptian blue faience overseer (reis) ushabti of Khaemwaset. The mummiform figure wears a broad collar, a wig with a side lock of hair, the crossed hands hold hoes, and a seed bag hangs from the back. A vertical inscription is painted on the front on the broad kilt of the overseer, reading, “The illuminated one, the Osiris, Sem Priest, son of the King, Khaemwaset.”

**Period:** New Kingdom  
**Dynasty:** XIX  
**Date:** ca. 1250 - 1230 BC  
**Medium:** Faience  
**Height:** 6 in. (15.1 cm)  
**Provenance:** Formerly in the collection of Leopoldo Benguerel y Godo, Barcelona, acquired in London in the 1960’s.  
**HAA#:** 5928

An ancient Egyptian large alabaster overseer (reis) ushabti shown in fine daily dress, wearing a wig, short sleeves, and a broad kilt with vertical pleats. The crossed hands hold agricultural implements. The inscription has worn away.

**Period:** New Kingdom  
**Dynasty:** XIX - XX  
**Date:** ca. 1293 - 1077 BC  
**Medium:** Faience  
**Height:** 8 1/4 in. (21 cm)  
**Provenance:** Formerly in an American private collection, 1980’s; with Charles Ede, Ltd., “Egyptian Sculpture,” Catalogue IV, January, 1978, no. 3; previously Sotheby’s, New York,  
**HAA#:** 5898
An ancient Egyptian light blue faience ushabti of Isetii. The mumiform figure wears a broad collar, a wig with a side lock of hair, the crossed hands hold hoes, and a seed bag hangs from the back. A vertical inscription is painted on the front reading, “Osiris, Lady of the House, Isetii, true of voice.”

**Height:** 5 1/2 in. (14.2 cm)

**Provenance:** Formerly in the collection of Leopoldo Benguerel y Godo, Barcelona, acquired in London in the 1960’s.

**HAA#:** 5893

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An ancient Egyptian white faience ushabti of Muttui. The mumiform figure wears a broad collar, a tripartite wig, the crossed hands hold hoes, and a seed bag hangs from the back. A vertical inscription is painted on the front reading, “The illuminated one, the Osiris, Lady of the House, Muttui, true of voice.”

**Height:** 5 5/8 in. (14.5 cm)

**Provenance:** Formerly in the collection of Leopoldo Benguerel y Godo, Barcelona, acquired in London in the 1960’s.

**HAA#:** 5886
High Priestess, Divine Adoratrice, Henuttawy

Henuttawy was the daughter of the High Priest of Amun at Thebes, Pinudjem II and his wife, Iset-em-Khebit. Pinudjem II was High Priest of Amun at Thebes from 990 to 969 BC. By the Third Intermediate Period, the priests of Amun controlled much of Egypt’s economy. They owned nearly 70% of all temple land in Egypt, 90% of all ships and 80% of all factories. As High Priest of Amun, Pinudjem II was the de facto ruler of Upper Egypt. Unfortunately, he ruled a nation in rapid decline. The once majestic Egyptian civilization of the New Kingdom was nearly bankrupt by 1000 BC. Grave robbing had become rampant as tombs, once venerated, were being stripped of any valuables that could be used to bolster the failing economy.

Pinudjem II and members of his family were buried at Deir el-Bahri. Perhaps sensing the demise of the Theban control over Upper Egypt and fearing potential unrest in the Afterlife of previous Theban rulers, many Theban rulers from the 18th and 19th Dynasties were reburied alongside Pinudjem II and his family. Those rulers included Ahmose I, Amenhotep I, Thutmose I, Thutmose II, Thutmose III, Ramesses I, Seti I, Ramesses II, and Ramesses IX.

The combined tomb at Deir el-Bahri became one of the most significant archaeological discoveries in history. The tomb was said to be discovered in 1871 by the Abd el-Rassul family who began to sell its contents on the antiquities market at Luxor. The Abd el-Rassul family hid the whereabouts of the tomb until 1881 when Emile Brusgh, temporary head of Egypt’s Antiquities Service, was provided information about its location. Staggered by the amazing find, Brusgh hurriedly emptied the contents of the tomb in a few days and sent them to the Bulaq Museum. The tomb at Deir el-Bahri contained the coffins and mummies of 20 kings and queens of the New Kingdom, 10 royal persons of the Third Intermediate Period, 20 ushabti boxes and over 3,700 ushabtis. Of the 3,700 ushabtis recovered from the tomb 50 were sent to a museum in Bulaq. The remainder are now dispersed between museums and private collectors worldwide.

Henuttawy’s tomb has never been located. She is only known from her ushabtis which refer to her as the “Divine Adoratrice.” Her shabtis are thought to come from the mortuary temple of Ramesses II where a Third Intermediate cemetery was found within the store chambers of the temple.

Henuttawy ushabtis have been dispersed since the early 20th century. Examples are known from museums in Berlin (8530, 9545, 9546), Bolton (A.28.1968), Cairo (CG48459, 48460), Cambridge (E.25.1887), Chicago (9426 & 10717), Cracow (931 & 932), Dublin (1892:229 & E 72:81), Florence (6548), Hildesheim (5482), Leiden (F 1964/12.4), London (BM 15763, 65803), Macclesfield (1849.77), New York (MMA 17.194.2411), Oxford (1933.1502), Stockholm, Turin (2709) and Vienna (AS 5968).
An Egyptian blue faience ushabti of Henuttawy. The mummiform figurine wears a long tripartite wig, *seshed* headband, her crossed hands hold hoes and a seed bag hangs from on her back. The inscription in six lines reads, “The illuminated one, the Osiris, the Divine Adoratrice, Henuttawy, she speaks, Oh, these shabtis …”

**Period:** Third Intermediate Period  
**Dynasty:** XXI - XXII  
**Date:** ca. 980 - 930 BC  
**Medium:** Faience  
**Height:** 6 1/4 in. (15.6 cm)  

**Provenance:** Formerly in the George Anastase Michaelides (1900-1973), collection, acquired in the 1940’s.  
**HAA#:** 5868
Third Intermediate Period Ushabtis

Nespaheran was the Web Priest of Khonsu and scribe of the temple of Amun at Thebes. His sarcophagus is in the Suez Museum. Examples of this ushabti are found in museum collections in: Alexandria, Cairo, Paris, Berlin, Basel, Copenhagen, Oslo, Florence, London, Leiden, and Lisbon.

Herwebkhet was the daughter of Pinudjem II (high priest of Amun). She had the title ‘Lady of the House’, ‘Chanteuse of Amun-Re’, ‘Second Prophetess of Mut’ and ‘Supreme Chief of the Harem of Amen’ at Thebes. Her sarcophagus is in the Cairo Museum. Examples of this ushabti are found in various museums including: Alexandria, Cairo, Paris, Berlin, Basel and London.

Period: Third Intermediate Period  
Dynasty: XXI  
Date: ca. 1077 - 943 BC  
Medium: Faience  
Height: 4 1/8 in. (10.5 cm)  
HAA#: 3282

Provenance: Formerly in an Irish private collection; originally purchased in the 1920s or 1930s in Egypt. From the 2nd cache at Deir el Bahri, which was discovered in 1874.

An Egyptian blue faience ushabti of Nespaheran. The mummiform figure wears a tripartite wig with seshed headband and holds two hoes and a seed bag; a vertical inscription reads: “The Osiris Nespaheran.”

Period: Third Intermediate Period  
Dynasty: XXI  
Date: ca. 1077 - 943 BC  
Medium: Faience  
Height: 4 1/4 in. (11 cm)  
HAA#: 3283

Provenance: Formerly in an Irish private collection; originally purchased in the 1920s or 1930s in Egypt. From the 2nd cache at Deir el Bahri, which was discovered in the 1870’s.
Third Intermediate Period Ushabtis

Tricolor Ushabti

An Egyptian tricolor faience ushabti with a blue tripartite wig, red flesh, and a white mummiform body with crossed hands

**Period:** Third Intermediate Period
**Dynasty:** XXI
**Date:** ca. 1069-945 BC
**Medium:** Faience
**Height:** 3 5/8 in. (9.2 cm)
**Provenance:** Formerly in the collection of Mr. Parson, New England, acquired in 1890.
**HAA#:** 3568

Horemheb

An Egyptian blue-green faience ushabti. The mummiform figurine wears a tripartite wig, his crossed hands which protrude from his wrappings hold hoes, a seed bag hangs form the back. An inscription is painted vertically down the front continuing under the feet, “The illuminated one, the Osiris, ‘Horemheb’, the justified, Horus is in jubilation.”

**Period:** Third Intermediate Period
**Dynasty:** XXI
**Date:** ca. 1069-945 BC
**Medium:** Faience
**Height:** 5 1/4 in. (13.2 cm)
**Provenance:** Formerly in the collection of Mr. Parson, New England, acquired in 1890.
**HAA#:** 3568

An Egyptian tricolor faience ushabti with a blue tripartite wig, red flesh, and a white mummiform body with crossed hands

**Period:** Third Intermediate Period/New Kingdom
**Dynasty:** XIX - XXII
**Date:** ca. 1292 - 716 BC
**Medium:** Faience
**Height:** 5 1/4 in. (13.2 cm)
**HAA#:** 5869
Late Period Ushabtis

The Late Period (664 - 332 BC) marks the last stage of the great Egyptian culture. At various points in the Late Period, Egypt was ruled by outside forces (Libyans & Persians). Their influence can be seen in the art from that time period. During the 26th Dynasty, a standardized ushabti emerged with a rectangular base and back pillar. After the 27th Dynasty, some ushabtis took on a new characteristic, the “t-form” inscription. By the 30th Dynasty, ushabtis were regarded as decorative objects. The mummiform figure become more elegant and shapely and extra emphasis paid to the glazed finish and high relief molding.

Gemhep, son of Tanefret

An Egyptian green faience ushabti. The mummiform figure wears a tripartite wig and beard, his crossed hands which protrude from his wrappings hold a hoe and seed bag. The inscription reads: “Gemhep, born of Tanefret.”

Horpenauser, son of Ausetsheshen

An Egyptian green faience ushabti. The mummiform figure wears a tripartite wig and braided beard, his crossed hands hold a hoe and seed bag. The inscription reads: “The illuminated one, the Osiris, Horpenauset (the one of Isis), the son of Ausetsheshen (the Isis lotus).”

Period: Late Period
Dynasty: XXX
Date: ca. 380 - 343 BC
Medium: Faience
Height: 5 3/8 in. (13.6 cm)

Provenance: Formerly in a 19th century French private collection.
HAA#: 4383

Period: Late Period
Dynasty: XXX
Date: ca. 380-343 BC
Medium: Faience
Height: 4 1/2 in. (11.3 cm)

Provenance: Formerly in a New York private collection.
HAA#: 2449
Late Period Ushabtis
Neferkasokar

An Egyptian green faience ushabti. The mumiform figure wears a tripartite wig and a beard, his crossed hands which protrude from his wrappings hold a hoe, adze, and seed bag. The inscription in ten lines reads, “The illuminated one, the Osiris, Neferkasokar,” followed by various titles and the shabti spell.

Period: Late Period
Dynasty: XXX
Date: ca. 380 - 343 BC
Medium: Faience
Height: 7 1/4 in. (18.5 cm)
Provenance: Acquired in Egypt in the 19th century by Mr. Pfleiderer, inherited by Fritz Verzar, (Budapest and Basel), (1900-1960); inherited by C. Verzar, New York, 1966.
HAA#: 5766

An Egyptian blue-green faience ushabti. The mumiform figure wears a tripartite wig and a long braided beard, his crossed hands which protrude from his wrappings hold a hoe, adze, and seed bag. The inscription in nine lines is not yet translated.

Period: Late Period
Dynasty: XXX
Date: ca. 380-343 BC
Medium: Faience
Height: 9 in. (23 cm)
Provenance: Formerly in an American private collection; previously in the collection of Simon Ohan Simonian, Switzerland, 1960’s.
HAA#: 5899
Selected Reading


