

Archaeology: Inquiry into the Past Lesson Images

All objects collection of the Albany Institute of History & Art, except where noted.

Shabti in everyday dress

Faience, Dynasty 19, 1292-1185 B.C.
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Cogswell,
1958.32.30

Bread Mold

Clay, Dynasty 18, 1550-1292 B.C.
1958.7.1

Although Egyptians baked bread in a variety of shapes (triangle, ovoid, bell-shaped), the conical loaves of emmer wheat bread seem to have been among the most common. This conical bread mold was excavated at Deir el-Bahri, Thebes by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1930-31.

Pitcher

"Egyptian Alabaster" (Calcite)
New Kingdom

Gift of Heinrich Medicus, 2013.1.13

This shape of this carved stone pitcher resembles a type of flask known as an askos. These were containers made of pieces of leather sewn together. Here the characteristic rectangular shape and been copied, and even the bands of thread holding the sides together are carved in the stone. The Egyptians delighted in copying the form of one material into another, and there are also similar pottery versions of the askos.

Tomb relief

Limestone, New Kingdom
Gift of Heinrich Medicus, 2013.1.6

This relief which would have decorated the walls of a tomb chapel, shows rows of servants bringing offerings to the tomb. Such depictions would magically serve to sustain the dead, in case actual offerings were not delivered to the chapel by the family or priests.

Relief of a granary

Limestone, Middle Kingdom,
Dynasty 11

Gift of Heinrich Medicus, 2013.1.22

The ancient Egyptians measured their wealth in terms of grain. The estates of Royalty and high officials had large granaries, which were fill with wheat and barley that was used as currency as well as food. This relief probably comes from the temple of Mentuhotep II at Deir el Bahri and shows a man carrying a sack of grain up a flight of stairs to empty it into the open top of the grain silo.

Canopic Jar

"Egyptian Alabaster" (Calcite)
Late Period, Dynasty 26

Gift of Heinrich Medicus, 2013.1.25 and
2013.1.26

In the practice of mummification, the internal organs were removed and in four separate containers called canopic jars. First appearing during the Old Kingdom, these jars were simple vessels with flat lids, but were later associated with four sons of Horus. They are: Imsety in human form, who protected the liver, as in this example along with the jackal, Duamutef, who guarded the stomach; Hapi the baboon-headed deity that safeguarded the lungs and, the hawk-headed, Qebehsenuf who protected the intestines.

Votive Relief

Limestone, Ptolemaic Period,
332-30 B.C.

Gift of Heinrich Medicus, 2013.1.27

This small relief contains an image of a goddess. She wears a divine wig and headband, but no crown to identify her. Such small carvings are known from a number of examples dating to late in Egyptian history. They have been suggested to be sculptor's studies, but some scholars believe that they were made as temple offerings instead.

Shabti

Wood, New Kingdom,

Gift of Heinrich Medicus, 2013.1.29

Shabtis first become common in the New Kingdom and served as magical substitutes for the deceased in case they were asked to perform any chores in the next life. These early figurines could be made from a wide variety of materials, stone, pottery, faience or wood, which was often painted.

Canopic Jar Lid

Pottery, New Kingdom

Gift of Heinrich Medicus, 2013.1.3

In the Middle and early New Kingdom, Canopic jars had four human heads and were made out of a wide variety of materials, pottery, faience, and stone.

Fragment of Stela (winged sun disk, Anubis, and scarab)

Painted wood, Dynasty 21, 1069-945
B.C.

Gift of Dr. Peter Lacovara in honor
of Erika Sanger

Stela, or Stelae, were commemorative plaques serving as tombstones, boundary markers, votives, or commemorative monuments.

Funerary Bowl

Faience, Dynasty 12, 1985-1773 B.C.

Collection of Dr. Peter Lacovara

Lizard Sarcophagus

Bronze

Late Dynastic to Ptolemaic Period,
664-30 BE B.C.

Collection of Douglas L. Cohn, DVM

Jar

Ceramic, Dynasty 18, 1550-1292 B.C.

X1940.225

Seal Impression of King Akhenaten

Clay

Dynasty 18, 1352-1336 B.C.

Gift of Mrs Howard B. Paine, X1940.58.7b

Khepri (winged scarab)

Painted wood

Late Dynastic or Early Ptolemaic
Period, 525-200 B.C.

x1940.600.1006