

DATABASES FOR USHABTIS OF THE LATE PERIOD

(c. 664-332 BC)

Ah-mose, born to Hetep-Bastet

Ḥḥ-ms



King's Scribe

Late Period, 30th Dynasty

From Giza



Ah-mose, born to Hetep-Bastet

Faience, pale green glaze

Late Period, 30th Dynasty

Provenance: from Giza

H. 11.5 cm. W. 3.1 cm. D. 2.2 cm.

Exhibited: '*Shabtis: Suspended Truth in Context*,' The Manchester Museum, 2017

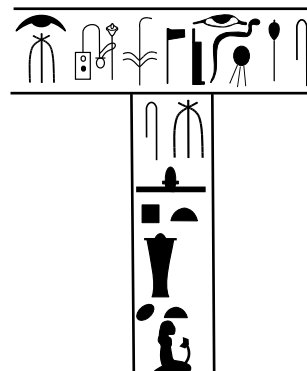


A shroud-wrapped mummiform *ushabti* wearing a plain tripartite wig and a plaited divine beard that is quite broad. The wig is worn quite low on the forehead. The arms are crossed right over left on the chest and clenched hands protrude from the shroud to hold a pick in the left and a hoe in the right. The right hand, which is slightly higher than the left, also holds the cord for a small square-hatched basket that is rather indistinctly modelled behind the left shoulder. The face has chubby cheeks and the nose, a narrow and somewhat stern looking mouth and the eyes with brows are all fairly well modelled. Large and quite well modelled ears protrude in front of the lappets of the wig. The right ear is higher than the left. The *ushabti* is supported by a dorsal pillar, the top of which is defined by a horizontal notch below the rear lappet of the wig, and it stands upon a trapezoidal base. The body of the figure has an incised 'T'-shaped hieroglyphic inscription naming the owner as Ah-mose¹ (Born of the Moon), born to Hetep-Bastet² (Bastet is Gracious).

There are seemingly three types of *ushabtis* for this owner – short ones with either a ‘T’-shaped inscription like the present example (Type 1 in the following database), slightly taller ones with a single vertical column of inscription as noted by Schneider (Type 2 in the following database), and taller *ushabtis* with several bands of inscription that give a full version of Chapter 6 of the *Book of the Dead* (Type 3 in the following database). Parallel examples that are to be found in Leiden,

London and the former Hilton Price collection are recorded with a provenance of Giza. Regarding Type 2, there are only two examples so far known. They are recorded as coming from Giza and are inscribed for Ah-mose, born to Hetep-Bastet but neither give the title of King's Scribe as noted on all of the other types. Schneider suggests that they are for the same owner but they are very different in appearance so perhaps their attribution is questionable despite the names being the same and having Giza as their provenance.³

Inscription



*shd Wsir sš nsw.t Th-ms
ms (n) Htp-B3st.t*

The illuminated one, the
Osiris, the King's Scribe,
Ah-mose, born (to)
Hetep-Bastet.

Database of parallel *ushabtis* for Ah-mose

From a study of parallel examples to be found in museum collections, private collections and those offered for sale at auctions and by dealers (images are not to scale).

TYPE 1 – shroud-wrapped mummiform male; original blue glazed faience now mostly degraded to green or brown; wears a plain tripartite wig quite low on the forehead; the chin sports a plaited divine beard that is large and curled upwards at its tip; the face is quite square in shape with chubby cheeks and quite well modelled facial details; the mouth usually has a gentle smile; eyes are large and somewhat bulbous; eyebrows are added; ears protrude in the front of the lappets of the wig although these are not always clearly defined; arms are crossed right over left above the waist; clenched hands hold a pair of hoes that are modelled in raised relief; a small and sometimes indistinct basket with square-hatched detail is carried behind the left shoulder being held by a cord that is held in the right hand; the *ushabti* is supported by a dorsal pillar that is separated from the rear lappet of the wig by a horizontal groove; the figure stands upon a rectangular or trapezoidal base; an incised 'T'-shaped hieroglyphic inscription gives the name and title of the owner as the Royal Scribe, Ah-mose, born to Hetep-Bastet. c. 10.8–11.3 cm in height.

Aberdeen (ABDUA inventory number uncertain).⁴ ①

Alexandria (GRM inventory number not known).²

Batley (KLMUS 2001.959).⁵ ③

Birmingham (BMA 1989A67).⁶

Bolton (BMAG A.50.1968, A.52.1968–A.54.1968).⁷ ④–⑦

Cambridge (FWM E.161.1891).⁸ ⑧

Edinburgh (NMS A.1891.270 – ex Rev. Greville J. Chester Collection, London).⁹ ⑨

Liverpool (WM 56.22.589 & 56.22.607).¹⁰ ⑩ ⑪

London (BM EA 71124, 71146 & 71157 – all recorded as coming from Giza;¹¹ ⑫–⑭ UC 40135).¹² ⑮

Macclesfield (WPM 1815.1977).¹³ ⑯

Oxford (ASH 1891.297 ⑰ & 1967.1127).¹⁴

Former Hilton Price collection (recorded as coming from Giza).¹⁵

Kemehu Collection. ⑰

Bergé 2011, lot 113. ⑱

Bonhams 2009, lot 413. ⑳



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TYPE 2 (attributed to be for the same Ah-mose by Schneider) – shroud-wrapped mummiform male; presumed original blue glazed faience now degraded to greenish-brown; wears a plain tripartite wig and a long plaited divine beard; the face is small and round in shape and with poorly defined details; ears protrude in the front of the lappets of the wig with those on H** 7 being disproportionately large; arms are crossed above the waist; clenched hands hold a pick in the left and a hoe in the right that are faintly modelled in relief; a trapezoidal-shaped basket with square-hatched detail is carried behind the left shoulder; the *ushabti* is supported by a dorsal pillar that is separated from the rear lappet of the wig by a shallow horizontal groove; the figure stands upon a rectangular-shaped base; the dorsal pillar has a vertical column of an incised hieroglyphic inscription that gives the name of the owner as Ah-mose born to Hetep-Bastet. c. 13.1–13.8 cm in height.

Leiden (RMO HD 15 & H** 7 – both are recorded as coming from Giza – H** 7 was acquired in 1830 and HD 15 was acquired in 1840).¹⁶ ① ②



TYPE 3 – shroud-wrapped mummiform male; light blue or blue-green glazed faience; wears a striated tripartite wig that usually sits low on the forehead; the chin sports a plaited divine beard that is curled at its tip; face is round in shape with chubby cheeks and well defined details; the eyes are almond-shaped and boldly outlined with the eyebrows being defined in raised relief; the nose is broad; the mouth has a gentle smile; well modelled ears protrude in the front of the lappets of the wig; the arms are crossed right over left on the chest; clenched hands hold a pick in the left and a hoe in the right that are well modelled in relief; a trapezoidal-shaped basket with diamond-hatched detail is carried behind the left shoulder being held by a twisted cord that is held in the right hand; the *ushabti* is supported by a dorsal pillar that is separated from the rear lappet of the wig by a shallow horizontal groove; the figure stands upon a rectangular or trapezoidal-shaped base; the body has nine horizontal bands of a neatly incised hieroglyphic inscription that gives the name and title of the owner as the King's Scribe, Ah-mose born to Hetep-Bastet. c. 18.0–18.4 cm in height.

Alexandria (GRM inventory number unknown).^①

Baltimore (WAM 48.397 – acquired by Henry Walters by 1931).¹⁷ ②

Edinburgh (NMS A.1891.43 & A.1891.44).¹⁸ ③ ④

Oxford (ASH 1961.410 – ex Ingram Collection).¹⁹ ⑤

Pennsylvania (PUM E13110).²⁰ ⑥

De Maigret 2012, lot 113 – ex Charles Bouche Collection (note the illustration in the catalogue is that given for lot 112).^⑦





Photo credits:

GJ with the exceptions of **TYPE 1**: Alexandria = courtesy of VB; Bolton = Anthony Donohue (modified GJ); London = courtesy of the Trustees of the British Museum and courtesy of The Petrie Museum of Egyptian and Sudanese Archaeology, UCL; Bergé = © Pierre Bergé; Bonhams = © Bonhams, London. **TYPE 2**: Leiden = © Rijksmuseum van Oudheden. **TYPE 3**: Alexandria = courtesy of VB; Baltimore = © The Walters Art Museum; Philadelphia = © of the Penn Museum; De Maigret = © Thierry de Maigret.

1. Ranke, H., *Die Ägyptischen Personennamen I* (Glückstadt, 1935), p. 12 (19).
2. *ibid.*, p. 258 (4).
3. Schneider, H., *Shabtis – An Introduction to the History of Ancient Egyptian Funerary Statuettes with A Catalogue of the Collection of Shabtis in the National Museum of Antiquities at Leiden* 3 vols. (Leiden, 1977), vol. 2, pp. 157–158, pl. 128, vol. 3, pl. 65 [nos. 5.3.1.12, 5.3.1.13].
4. Communication with Dr. Abeer Eladany. See also the website of the University of Aberdeen: https://abdn.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/collectionDiscovery?vid=44ABE_INST:44ABE_VU1&lang=en
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7. Communication with the former Curator at Bolton, Tom Hardwick.
8. Budge 1893, p. 131 [no. 557]; see the website of the website of the Fitzwilliam Museum: <https://fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/>
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16. Schneider, H. D., *Shabtis – An Introduction to the History of Ancient Egyptian Funerary Statuettes with A Catalogue of the Collection of Shabtis in the National Museum of Antiquities at Leiden* 3 vols. (Leiden, 1977) vol. 2, pp. 157–158, pl. 128, vol. 3, pl. 65 [nos. 5.3.1.12, 5.3.1.13]. For HD 15, see <https://hdl.handle.net/21.12126/2086> and for H** 7, see <https://hdl.handle.net/21.12126/2087>
17. Steindorff, G., *Catalogue of the Egyptian Sculpture in the Walters Art Gallery* (Baltimore, 1946), p. 162, pls. CVI, CXIX [no. 733]. See the website of the Walters Art Museum: <https://art.thewalters.org/object/48.397/>
18. Communication with Dr. Dan Potter. See the website of the National Museum of Scotland: <https://www.nms.ac.uk/>
19. Communication with Dr. Helen Whitehouse and Dr. Liam McNamara.
20. See the website of The University Museum, University of Pennsylvania: <https://www.penn.museum/collections/>

Abbreviations

ABDUA	University of Aberdeen, Human Culture Collection.
ASH	Ashmolean Museum (Oxford).
BM	The British Museum (London).
BMA	Museum & Art Gallery (Birmingham).
BOLMG	Bolton Museum & Art Gallery (Bolton)
FWM	Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.
GRM	Greco–Roman Museum (Alexandria).
KLMUS	Kirklees Museums and Galleries.
NMS	National Museum of Scotland (Edinburgh).
PUM	The University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology (Philadelphia).
RMO	Rijksmuseum van Oudheden (Leiden).
WAM	Walters Art Museum – formerly Walters Art Gallery (Baltimore).
WM	World Museum (Liverpool).
WPM	West Park Museum (Macclesfield).

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