

DATABASES FOR USHABTIS OF THE LATE PERIOD

(c. 664-332 BC)

Ah-mose, born to Ta-di-Bastet

Ḥm-ms



God's Servant of Horus

Late Period, 30th Dynasty

Provenance: unknown



Ah-mose, born to Ta-di-Bastet

Faience, green/blue glaze

Late Period, 30th Dynasty

Provenance unknown

H. 12.0 cm. W. 3.0 cm. D. 2.1 cm.

Published: Janes, G., *Shabtis – A Private View. Ancient Egyptian funerary statuettes in European private collections* (Paris, 2002), p. 151 [no. 79]

Exhibited: 'Shabtis,' Cybele Gallery, Paris, 2003

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



A shroud-wrapped mummiform male *ushabti* wearing a plain tripartite wig and a broad plaited divine beard. The arms are crossed right over left on the chest and clenched hands protrude from the shroud to hold a hoe in the left and a pick in the right. The right hand also holds the rope of a small basket with square-hatched detail that is carried behind the left shoulder. The face is quite square in shape and has very well-modelled details. The cheeks are chubby and the chin is quite fleshy. The mouth has a pleasant smile, the nose is broad and the eyes are almond-shaped and slightly bulging and with eyebrows modelled. A pair of ears protrude in front of the lappets of the wig. The figure stands against a dorsal pillar that is separated from the rear lappet of the wig by a horizontal groove and stands upon a trapezoidal base. A single vertical column of an incised hieroglyphic inscription with framing lines names the owner as Ah-mose¹ (Born of the Moon), born to Ta-di-Bastet² (Gift of Bastet). The *ms* of the name Ah-mose is used haplographically for *ms n* – born to. Ah-mose has the title God's Servant of Horus.

There are areas of blue on the back of the *ushabti*, this being the original colour of the glaze.

Inscription



*Wsir hm-ntr Hr Th-ms [ms] n
T3-di-B3st.t m3'c.t-hrw*

The Osiris, the God's Servant of
Horus, Ah-mose, born to Ta-di-
Bastet, justified.

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).

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 broad and curled upwards at its tip; the face is square in shape with chubby cheeks and well modelled facial details; the mouth has a pleasant smile; eyes are large, almond-shaped and somewhat bulbous; eyebrows are added; ears protrude in the front of the lappets of the wig; the arms are crossed right over left above the waist; clenched hands hold a pair of hoes that are modelled in shallow relief; a small and sometimes indistinct basket with square-hatched detail is carried behind the left shoulder being held by a faintly modelled 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 trapezoidal base; a vertical column of an incised hieroglyphic inscription with framing lines gives the name and title of the owner as God's Servant of Horus, Ah-mose, born to Ta-di-Bastet.

c. 11.3–11.5 cm in height.

Amsterdam (APM 9499 – donated in 1977 by Mr. C. P. Dobber, Heiloo – misread as being for Hor(?), born to Ta-nekhet-nestet).³ ①
Kemehu Collection.⁴ ②

Bonhams 2007, part of lot 331 – ex Peter Negus Collection. ③
Tajan 2004, lot 203 – the glaze has degraded to black.



Photo credits:

GJ with the exceptions of: Amsterdam = © Alard Pierson Museum; Bonhams = © Bonhams, London..

1. Ranke, H., *Die Ägyptischen Personennamen I* (Glückstadt, 1935), p. 12 (19).
2. *ibid.*, p. 373 (3).
3. Van Haarlem, W., *Shabtis CAA Fascicle II 2* (Amsterdam, 1990), pp. 229–230; Van der Plas, D. (ed.), *Egyptian Treasures in Europe vol. 2 – 1000 Highlights* CD-ROM (Utrecht, 1999).
4. Janes, G., *Shabtis – A Private View. Ancient Egyptian funerary statuettes in European private collections* (Paris, 2002), p. 151 [no. 79].

Abbreviations

APM Allard Pierson Museum, Amsterdam.
CAA *Corpus Antiquitatum Aegyptiacarum*.

Auction catalogue references

Bonhams (auctioneers, London): *Antiquities* (London, 26th October, 2007).

Tajan (auctioneers, Paris): *Archéologie Grecque, Étrusque et Égyptienne, Romaine, Gall-Romaine et Byzantine, Bijoux antiques ar d'après l'antique* (Paris, 22nd October, 2004).